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ABSTRACT

This report, prepared by the UNICEF Office in Kabul, Afghanistan, is on the status of women in Afghanistan and on the problems and issues affecting their integration in the national development process. The report provides a general overview of the relationship between developmental programs for women, improvement of women's status and the resulting impact on the well-being of Afghan children. The United Nations assistance to programs benefiting women, and the specific roles which UNICEF plays in this regard, are described. In addition, future courses of actions for UNICEF are suggested. (Author/MP)

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INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN

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COUNTRY PAPER: AFGHANISTAN

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UNICEF, KABUL
23 SEPTEMBER 1979

FOREWORD

The 1978 UNICEF Board had requested the preparation of a report on the integration of women in the development process and its impact on the well-being of children, to be presented at the 1980 Board meeting. The report is expected to provide a general overview of the relationships between women, development and children, review the UN assistance to programmes of benefit to women in the context of development and children, identify the specific roles which UNICEF may or should play in the above set of relationships, and suggest future courses of action for UNICEF. The information generated in the course of the report preparations was also expected to contribute to UNICEF's participation in the Mid-Decade World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in Copenhagen in July 1980.

The data, information and suggestions needed for the preparation of the report were to be generated from UNICEF Country and Regional Offices. The UNICEF Office in Kabul was requested to contribute a country paper on the status of women in Afghanistan and on the problems and issues affecting her integration in the development process. The present paper was prepared in this context, by Mrs. S. Doraiswami, Project Officer in this office for Education and Women's Development.

The general paucity of up-to-date national statistical data in Afghanistan is known. It is even more pronounced in respect of women. Compilation of information needed for this paper had to rely largely upon sample surveys, ad hoc studies, secondary sources, and reports prepared by UN agencies. UNICEF would like to record its thanks to several individuals who assisted: to Miss Siri Melchior, Programme Coordinator UNFPA, Kabul and Dr. Shanti Ghosh, Family Health Adviser WHO, Kabul and Miss Anneliese Stucki, Sociologist/Anthropologist, member of the UNDP Socio-Economic Team on the Central Provinces, Kabul for their assistance in planning the paper and suggesting sources, to Miss A. Stucki for providing insights into the situation of women in certain ethnic groups, and to Dr. Andrea Singh, Consultant to UNICEF New Delhi, Dr. Padmini Ramaswami and Mrs. Saroji Abraham, UNICEF New Delhi for going through this draft and suggesting improvements.

If the paper stimulates renewed concern for the improvement in women's status and her integration in national life, and through her raise the well-being of the children of the country, its purpose would have been well served.

Edward W. Crunden
UNICEF Representative
Kabul

Kabul
29 September 1979

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PART I

1. THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Area and

1.1 Afghanistan has a total land area of 625,900 square kilometers. It has 26 provinces (Annex IV Map 1.) Of the total urban population, 870,000 (40%) are in Kabul.

1.2 The demography of the country is still largely unknown. The First Population Census of Afghanistan has been completed just recently (July 1979). The data is under compilation and when completed will provide the first authentic picture of the population size and structure. In the meanwhile, the Central Statistical Organization of the Government of Afghanistan Ministry of Planning Affairs, has made tentative estimates of the size and distribution of the population based on surveys and studies carried out so far. According to this estimate, the population is 15,108 million, of whom 1.45 million are nomads, and 11.5 million are settled rural population. About 2.1 million are in urban areas. (AI.1 - Table 1).

Structure of Society - Diversity

1.3 Afghanistan is not a self-contained, single ethnic unit. It is a conglomerate of various ethnic groups of different origins and histories and with variegated and distinctive cultural characteristics. It is not possible to generalise these into an Afghan stereotype. It is officially estimated that the largest single groups is the Pashtuns, (59%) followed by Tajik (29%) Uzbak (5%) Hazara (3%) Turkman (1%) and a variety of other groups. (A - 1 - 15 and A - IV Map 2.)

- and Unity

1.4 There are a number of unifying features however, beyond those of a common territory and government. The population is almost entirely Muslim, with almost all groups other than Hazaras being sunnites. There are many other common features related to the way of social and economic life in the thousands of villages in the country.

Language

1.5 Three, and possibly four major language families are spoken in Afghanistan - Indo European, Uralic-Altaic, Davidian and semitic. The two principal languages are Dari and Pashto (Indo European). Several dialects of Farsi exist eg. Hazaragi, Tajiki. Baluchi is spoken in south west Afghanistan. The second most important language, Uralic-Altaic is represented by Uzbaki and Turkamani in the north of the Hindu Kush. Nooristani is spoken by the Nooristani. Most of the population speak Dari or Pashtu and often both.

1.6 Little intermarriage takes place between ethnic groups, but it does occur particularly in Northern Afghanistan and in ethnic gray zones where several ethnic groups live in close contact with one another.

Income Distribution

1.7 Measures of the economic quality of life in Afghanistan suggest serious inequities which may be obscured by the per capita income estimate of Afs. 6563 ($ 152.63) which is well above the absolute poverty levels (Afs. 3972 per person in rural areas and Afs. 4091 per person in urban areas estimated by the World Bank (1978) for 1976. Based on Ministry of Planning surveys done in 1969 and 1970-71, the World Bank estimates that between 20 to 40% of the people have incomes less than the minimum poverty levels.

> Income distribution in Kabul is most inequitable with 6% of the house holds receiving nearly 50% of the income.

The socio-economic development plan of the new Government aims to raise the living standard of the people to increase people's real income and per capita consumption.

Poverty in Rural Areas

1.8 The problem of poverty is more serious in rural than in urban areas. A small survey of 12 villages in 7 provinces undertaken by the Ministry of Planning in 1970 showed that the population living in absolute poverty ranged from 11 to 60%. "The survey also illustrates the direct linkage between land per capita, average per capita income and degree of absolute poverty. For those who fall into the category of the absolute poor

this means serious deprivation in bad crop years, and even in good ones. Even where the rural population can afford the minimum basic needs, there is little surplus to be saved, reinvested or taxed to enable Government to provide education, health services and clean water. Afghanistan's development strategy needs to combine higher rural productivity with a direct effort to meet basic needs. The redistribution of land, the major rural asset, is critical to insuring that the benefits of higher productivity in the future will be spread among the population".

1.9 The new Government's programme of land reform and land redistribution combined with cooperative, credits and inputs needed for modernised farming should help in realising this objective in the long run.

Afghanistan Nomad

1.10 The official estimate of the size of the nomad population is 1.44 million or about one-tenth of the population.* The nomads have not been subjected to any demographic study so far. Their demographic characteristics are assumed from those of other groups.

Categories of Nomads

1.11 Nomads are of three categories

- Full nomads (i.e. these whose whole life cycle is on the move)
- Seminomads
- Local nomads (those who are nomads only for 2-3 months in the year)

Both full and semi-nomads are migratory with this difference, that the full nomads are always in tents while the semi-nomads stay 3 to 4 months in the year in a house. It can be a poor house or the head of the family can be a rich landlord. The local nomads move just about 7 km. around their village and are thus easiest to assimulate.

Migratory Pattern

1.12 The nomads move up and down the Hindukush mountains. (A IV - Map 3). They move down to the plains in the winter and go

*According to the latest figures released by the Government (3 Oct. 1979) based on the preliminary results of the census, the nomad population consists of 2.50 million or 16.09 per cent of the total population of the country.

up the mountains in the summer. Migration up the mountains starts in the beginning of Spring and downwards towards the end of Autumn. The movement patterns keep distinctive to the north and south of the Hindukush. There are roughly the same number of nomads north of the mountains as in the south in winter. Migration may cover 100 to 400 kms and may take 2 weeks to 2 months of walking.

Economic Life of Nomads

1.13 There is an enduring symbiosis between the nomadic, and sedentary population influencing the agricultural economy and trade interdependence. All full nomads are life stock breeders, rich or poor. Among the semi-nomads, half are destitute nomads. They are harvesters. They have very few sheep and goats and their income is their own labour. About 250,000 of the semi-nomads have lands. During migration they are live stock breeders. This makes a good economic balance. In a nomad camp the men are normally very idle. Only one shepherd is needed to take care of all the tribes' sheep. Usually he is the poorest man in the tribe. The turn-over of an average family is about 30,000 Afs. per year.

2. STATUS OF WOMEN

2.1 It would not be far from the truth to say the status of women in Afghanistan is generally low. This is borne out both by objective indicators and by subjective observations.

Sex ratio

2.2 The sex-ratio for the total population is 52 males to 48 females (AI -2 Tables 6&8). The excess of males over females is observed in both urban and rural zones. This high sex ratio is noticeable for a majority of age-groups (I -3 - Figure 1). Two possible reasons have been suggested for this female deficit: (a) under-reporting of females by male member of houshold (who is more often the respondent in this society); (b) the effect of higher mortality among females.

Female-headed House-holds

2.3 Female-headed households is not likely to be a common occurence. When men emigrate to other regions or countries, the woman may often have to run the family economy, but probably will have to work through men intermediaries in contacting the outer world of commerce or market.

Sex-Ratio in Rural-urban Migration

2.4 The ADS (8)study shows that whereas only 5% of the urban population are living in the same place where they were born, 80% of the rural population are still living in their birth place, showing that the urban population is more mobile. Most of the migration has been to Kabul whose population has grown phenomenally in the last few decades to 870,000 now. Migration also takes place to other urban small-scale industrial complexes like Kunduz, Baghlan and Pul-i-Khumri or to Gulbahar and Jabul-us-Seraj. As is true in most countries, the ages of young adult-hood are the most mobile. The same patterns hold for males and females separately, reflecting the possibility that most moves are made of family units, particularly young married couples.

Education Literacy Development

2.5 Over-all literacy level is low for both men and women, but it is much lower among women than men. (A - 1.2 Table 7). Over 8 times as many males as females are

literate. While urban males have literacy levels only twice their rural counterparts, over 15 times more urban females are literate than the rural females. Obviously the rural females with less than 1% literacy are the most educationally deprived of all, and the least prepared for participation in development.

Educational Level

2.6 The ADS (8) Report showed that 77% of males and 96% of females had no formal education. Approximately 4% of the total had completed sixth grade: 6% males and 1% females. Only 2% males and less than 1% females had graduated from high school. (AI - 4 - Tables 9 & 10).

Schooling Facilities

2.7 The urban male has the best chance to attend school, followed by the urban female and rural male, with the rural female having the least chance of all. This is largely because there has been little schooling facilities for girls in most rural communities. (A-I - 5 Table 11)

Wastage

2.8 The wastage in the education system is generally high in Afghanistan schools, and higher among girls than boys. As a measurement of wastage, the input-output ratio tells how many pupil years are spent in school for each successfull graduate. Thus while it ideally required 6 complete primary school in the former system, some pupils took 15 years to complete. Nine out of the 15 years can be considered waste, due to repetition and drop outs. Accordingly the input-output ratio is 3.0 among girls as against 2.5 for boys at the primary stage and 3.5 for girls as against 2.0 for boys at the secondary stage. (A-I-5 - Table 12).

Women Teachers

2.9 One of the major factors regarding the education of girls is the lack of women teachers especially in rural areas. Women teachers constitute only about 16% of the total number of teachers at the primary stage and 19% at the secondary stage (AI-6 - Table 13). Most of the women teachers reside in urban areas. In the cultural situation in the country, it is difficult for women to travel far from homes to work in rural communities. There are no suitable facilities for women teachers away from home.

Training Facilities For Women Teachers

2.10 The enrolment of women teachers from teacher training colleges is itself low being only 12% of the total enrolment. There is obvious need for a more decentralised network of teacher training centres to enable girls from provinces to get trained, and provision of women's hostels attached to training institutes.

Educational Curriculum and its Relevance to Girls

2.11 It is universally recognised that a poor educational programme has poor attracting and holding power. That is as true in Afghanistan as elsewhere especially because each ethnic group has its own value system, codes of behaviour, vocabulary, cultural concepts, environmental problems and concerns. A curriculum designed in Kabul and prescribed uniformly throughout the country is likely to leave many communities indifferent and apathetic. Similarly to attact girls to formal education in a society which sees women only in very domestic and child bearing roles, the curriculum needs to be made sufficiently relevant to their lives and their problems.

2.12 In the formal system, a new school structure and new textbooks have been designed and are being introduced in gradual stages beginning with the academic year 1979-80. The books are being brought out in five languages including Pashtu, Dari and Uzbaki. The positive features of the new textbooks are:

- that they include concepts and messages that reflect the Government's objectives for social change
- that they emphasize national consciousness
- that they give a larger place for girls in illustrations
- that being brought out in at least 5 national languages (in contrast to only Dari and Pashtu previously) will have greater appeal to diverse groups.

Even so, the content is uniform with little scope for adaptation to local situations particularly for girls.

2.13 In the literacy programme again, the compulsions of a time-bound mass programme and the organisational problems involved seem to have necessitated the prescription of a uniform programme and learning materials for men and women and in all parts of the country. If a uniform programme is unsuitable for children, it is even less so for adult women who are grappling with life's problems. To offset the disadvantage of a uniform curriculum it is proposed to provide supplementary materials for teachers and women learners. A compensating feature of the new material is that it includes several concepts and messages emphasising the place and role of women in family and society, her right to equal status, importance of family health, limiting family size etc., all of which are equally important for men as for women. Nevertheless, this does not constitute a true solution to convincing poor and rural women or their menfolk of the relevance of education of women to their lives.

Social and economic constraints on female education literacy and training

2.14 Social and cultural constraints are retarding factors in getting women into education and training programmes, and they become increasingly so as one moves away from urban centres to remote, poor and isolated areas. Attitudes to education vary from strong enthusiasm in the cities and larger towns where it is recognised as an advancement in society and achieving a secure future, to suspicion and even hostility in the less accessible regions. Sentiments are particularly strong against the education of girls and women in certain ethnic groups and in remote areas. Many women are also hard worked in carpet weaving, agricultural work, raisin sorting, in addition to child bearing and family raising. An educational and training programme has to be extraordinarily interesting and meaningful to make it worth the trouble for these overworked women.

2.15 Experiences, limited as they have been, show that when education and training are introduced subtly around women's problems like immunisation of children or better way of preparing a family meal or dealing with a health situation, they are more than avidly accepted not only by women but by men too. To make any brusque or frontal attack on the problem is self defeating, especially as any step that concerns women is likely to tread on cultural or religious sensibilities.

Employment

2.16 Employment statistics of the settled population (World Bank 1978) estimated 12% of the labour force as female. Most significant involvement of women in economic production is in the handicraft sector (67.3%) (AI - 6 Table 14).

An eleven province survey carried out by the Central Statistical Organisation in 1973 revealed that in the carpet weaving industries, which constitute 50% of the total handicrafts and handiworks industry, 96% of the workers were female. In embroidery works, the second largest category, almost 100% of the workers are women.

2.17 Involvement of women is low in transport, communications, construction, and commerce sectors. It is estimated at 12% (World Bank 1978) and 7.4% (CSO) in the manufacturing, industry and mining sectors, reflecting the employment of women in food, textile, knitting and pharmaceutical industries. (A-1-7 Table 15). The low rate of estimated female participation in the agricultural work force (4% - World Bank 1978) probably does not reflect the agricultural functions undertaken by women as unpaid family workers (livestock, poultry, weeding, processing. Women constitute 5.6% of the government work force. There is no data on what percentage of women hold policy making positions. (11)

Concentration

2.18 Government offices are the largest employers of women (AI-8 - Table 16), but this is concentrated in Kabul. Most of these are at the clerical and technical member level. Very few reach even a General-Director status and Women Presidents of Departments are rare.

Since the Revolution however, more women are seen in some of the key positions relating to health, children and women's programmes.

Constraints on Women's involvement in Agriculture

2.19 These include:

- constraint on female employment outside the compound (e.g. in the South and certain ethnic groups). Such constraints are least noticeable among nomadic women
- very few women are land owners
- low wages for women farm labour - women are given 'softer' jobs on the fields and lower wages than men labourers
- social practice of keeping women's contribution to agriculture at a low level
- availability of adequate male labour

Effect of Migration on Women's Employment

2.20 In provinces like Faryab, Farah, Nimroz, Zabul, Baghlan, Parwan there was until recently large sized emigration of male labour to Iran resulting in increasing demand for female labour on farms of wheat, sugar beet, grapes. According to one estimate in 1977 roughly 160,000 Afghan unskilled labourers emigrated to Iran (an increase of about 50% over the emigration level in 1976). The recent political events in Iran have sent back most of these emigrants, changing the entire picture of male and female labour in these areas.

Mortality

2.21 Infant and child mortality is higher among females than males (A 1 - 9 Table 19, and paras 4.2 and 4.3) and a poor survival chance for girls. Differential nurturing favoring males during the formative years of physical growth can have deleterious effects on the overall health of females, further complicated by early marriage and childbearing.

2.22 Maternal mortality is high in Afghanistan especially in rural areas (A1 - 10 and A 1 - 11 - Table 20). Deaths of females which far exceeds deaths of males throughout the child bearing years 15 - 39 reflect the vulnerable health status of women, particularly during the period when they are responsible for the bearing and nourishment of their children. Demographic data suggest the poorer health status of women relative to men. Anaemia and tuberculosis are common among women, as also goitre in some regions. Surveys show that only a very small % of pregnant mothers reach normal standard body weight.

Fertility

2.23 Fertility is extremely high being 7.7 live births to every women during her reproductive years. It is higher among women in rural areas. There is a long period of high reproductive activity (from 20 to 39 years of age) in contrast to countries with low birth rates.

Marriage

2.24 The ADS and WHO studies show that:

- marriage is almost universal among both males and females
- the average age at marriage of women is very low - 14.3 years.
- nearly 25% of married women marry before reaching 15 years, and 30% before they reach 20.
- 15 years appears the most popular age among women, over 17% of married women entering marriage at that age.
- 10% of marriages occur between 16-18
- only 1% enter marriage at 30 years or over.

2.25 The average age of women at the 2nd or subsequent marriage is also low - being 24.3 years for all married women under 50. The age of marriage of males is considerably higher. Males marry at an average age of 28.0 years. This creates considerable age

difference between the spouses - about 9.6 years on the average. Early age at marriage of women, universality of marriage and long duration of marriage, combine to cause high fertility.

2.26 The rate of widowhood is twice as high for females as for males, partly because of the ease with which men can remarry and partly because many younger women marry much older men. Divorce rate is very low (only 0.1% of the total population) and suggests that the Afghan family is a stable institution. The cohesion of the extended kin group further enhances an already stable family organisation.

2.261 According to Islamic practices, women do inherit a portion of the property although it is less than what the son inherits. Often, however, the daughter transfers her share to her brother (who is her protector and her legal agent in need). There are of course variations to these customs; for example, sometimes these portions are given to other male relatives.

2.262 As in all Islamic societies there is preference for marrying parallel or cross cousins, and in Afghanistan this has no relationship to the educational level of the families. This custom could perhaps be traced to the tradition of high bride price which in the case of cousin marriage stays within the group. A second reason might also arise from the desire to be quite sure of keeping peace and harmoney within the group.

2.263 Practices regarding remarriage of widows vary greatly from one ethnic group to another. The determining factors are: age of the widow, whether she has children or not, or the economic status of her husband's or her natal family. In some areas leviarate is common, whereas in others, her own relatives (father, brother) remarry her to outsiders for another substantial price.

Family Planning

2.27 Very little data exists about contraceptive use in Afghanistan. The ADS (1975) 8 estimated that 1% of all married couples used some form of contraception and that 3.4% of married women had knowledge of a means of family limitation, and of them, 37.6% were users. In urban areas 14.4% were aware of contraceptive methods and 47.8% of these were users.

2.28 At present family planning activities in Afghanistan are carried out almost solely by the Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA), as semi-autonomous group linked with the Ministry of Public Health. As yet family planning efforts reach only a small fraction of fertile women in Afghanistan. In 1977 AFGA has a total of 41 family guidance clinics, 25 of them serving as provincial clinics, 10 attached to Maternal and Child Health Clinics in Kabul (9) and Baghlan (1), and 6 of them satellite clinics open once or twice per week. There seem to be no plans yet for any appreciable increase in the number of family guidance clinics. The total number of women reached by AFGA is less than 2% of the women in the child bearing age. The need for expansion of family planning service will become more acute to the extent that preventive and curative health services in Afghanistan reduce the high infant mortality. It is also an important component in improving mother and child health and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

Nutrition Status

2.29 Studies and surveys show that nutritional status among girls under 4 is lower than among boys of the same age. (A - 1 - 12-13 Tables 21 and 22). They indicate that girls are less wellnourished than boys until the age of four years, after which they do slightly better than boys.

2.30 It is difficult to form a conclusive picture of the nutritional situation. In general, nutritional status seems poorer among women than men, and more severe in rural women than in urban women. This latter can probably be explained in terms of higher urban incomes, greater variety in the foods available, and closer proximity to health facilities. Deficiencies in iron, calcium and vitamins appear universal, as does the unsuitability of the diet on which children are weaned. Part of the problem is one of education; making mothers aware of the special nutritional needs of the young and making fathers aware of the special nutritional needs of expectant and nursing mothers.

Access to Health Services

2.31 Though children and their mothers suffer in greater proportion then adult males from disease and death, they have had less access to health care services. Only a small proportion of the operating and development budgets (2.4$ in the 1976-77 operating budget and 4.3% of development expenditures in the period 1970-1976) were devoted to the health sector. Within the health sector, expenditure during previous Governments was concentrated on urban (particularly Kabul) curative facilities which primarily serve adult males.

An analysis made in 1977-78 estimated that only 6.1% of health expenditures benefitted infants age 0-1, even though they suffer 38% of all mortality, while mothers received only 8.5%. The labour force, which consists primarily of adult males received the benefit of an estimated 53.9% of health expenditure.

Hospital utilisation by Women

2.32 The largest portion of planned health expenditure (about 47%) is earmarked for hospitals. Hospitals are most heavily used by adult males (59%) even though they constitute only 30% of the total population. Hospital utilisation is much lower for females than for males both in Kabul and in the provinces:

	Male	Female
Kabul Hospitals	73%	27%
Provincial Hospitals	79%	21%

Shortage of Women Health Personnel in BHCs

2.33 Basic Health Centres in rural areas offer polyclinic, maternal and child services. But they suffer from shortages of auxiliary nurse midwives and nurses. In addition to low salary levels and difficult living conditions, female medical personnel encounter considerable cultural obstacles to serving in a village which is not their own. An adequate number of female medical workers in rural areas is basic to improving the health status of children and women in a traditional Moslem society which does not encourage contact of women with men outside the family.

Housing

2.34 The average household size is about 6.23 persons, with slightly larger households (6.60 persons) in urban areas than in rural areas (6.17 persons) 14. Limited surveys suggest that rural homes may have 2 to 3 rooms, but urban homes are smaller, with one quarter of the households having only one room. (12) Urban housing is probably more severly strained by overcrowding. Rural-urban migration, which is going on at an undetermined rate, increase this problem.

Potable Water

2.35 Water is the key to life in Afghanistan. Practically every source of water is exploited and in the presence of assured water, land of even the poorest quality is settled. The same source often provides water for irrigation, animal and human consumption, and personal hygiene.

The water flows through the villages in open, multi-purpose canals (juis), and more often than not these canals are polluted before they even reach the village, and if they aren't as they enter, they are when they leave. The least fortunate villages have no regular supply of water. In these villages water flows for a specified amount of time on a given day when it irrigates the fields, is used to wash clothes and is stored in small reservoirs. These reservoirs (howz) are usually located in family courtyards beneath trees to reduce evaporation. Howz water has been found to be uniformly polluted. Some villages have shallow wells to tap groundwater. The water from such wells is usually less polluted than water from juis or in the howz, but there is no guarantee that it is safe. It is estimated that about 800,000 rural people or less than 7% of the rural population presently have reasonable access to clean water supplies and that 800,000 urban people or about 33% of the urban population have reasonable access to clean water.

2.36 The problem of polluted water is probably even more critical in urban areas,/avail-/ piped water is able only in five urban centres. Other major centres and small towns have no immediate prospect of obtaining water supply systems. Urban water supply is also intermittant leading to the possibility of contamination from ground water when there is no pressure in the pipes. Water supplies are not always chlorinated. Contamination by industry is not a major problem in Afghanistan.

2.361 In a diverse situation as in Afghanistan it would be incorrect to generalise about the nature of physical work performed by women. It varies from ethnic group to ethnic group and also according to the economic status of the family. In an average rural family, the woman would be expected to fetch water, often from a distance, collect grass for fuel among other tasks.

Sewerage

2.37 With the exception of newly developed facilities in Kabul, and isolated situations like Lashkargah, there are no urban sewerage systems. In urban areas, residents may rely on simple latrines from which the night soil may be collected. Commonly the streets are used. The few existing water borne-

systems empty into drainage fields or septic tanks, with the consequent risk of contaminating nearby wells.

Construction of rural latrines has been done on a limited scale only. Reports on rural communities indicate the existence of only a few latrines, which may not be of a sanitary design. Most villagers rely on surrounding fields for excreta disposal.

Political Participation in the Legislature 2.38 In the pre-Revolution period a few women (less than 5) were nominated to the constituent assembly. Prior to that there was one Minister of Health in the Cabinet. There is no elected legislature now. In the first Cabinet after the Revolution there was one woman minister in-charge of newly created Ministry of Social Affairs. Now there is none. Participation of women in political affairs at the legislative level has thus been minimal.

Voting 2.39 Electoral machinery was patterned after the western practices and was established by 1964 constitution. It was applicable to provincial jergahs and municipal councils. Members of both sexes over 20 years of age were enfranchised. The 1964 Afghan constitution had provided for a bicameral parliament with 216 elected member party elective and partly appointive Meshrano Jirgah (upper house). In the first election, only about 17% of eligible voted. Women, although enfranchised by the constitution and the election law, voted only in the larger urban centres. Four women were elected. In 1977 a new constituent assembly was constituted. The Revolution of April 1978 brought about a complete change in the form of Government.

Women's Organisations Political: 2.40 The Khalqi (People's) Organisation of Afghan Women (KOAW) is the only national political organisation representating women's interests. It is a branch of

the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Party. It works under the leadership of the Justice Minister who on behalf of the party is responsible for both the KOAW and the Khalqi Organisation of Afghan Youth. Administratively the organisation has a President, two vice-presidents and 10 members of the Central Committee. It has branches in all 26 provinces. In its pre-Revolution form when it was called Afghan Women's Organisation its membership as well as its activities tended to be elitist, but now its membership is more broad-based, many being drawn from the middle and lower middle classes. Its activities include organising education and training of programmes for women, Kabul and in the provinces, political and social information, and uplift of women in general.

Professional 2.41 There are no professional organisation in Afghanistan. Nor are there trade unions as such, but the Khalqi Organisation of Afghan Workers represents the interests of workers.

Participation and representation at local level 2.42 The Khalqi Women's Organisation's network extends up to the provincial level. Its representation at district or village level is not yet built up in any appreciable measure.

Co-operatives 2.43 There are up to date 979 agricultural co-operatives in the country with 143,444 members. Only 0.5% are women. There are no co-operatives exclusively for women.

Reservation of Posts & Protective Legislation 2.44 There is no reservation of quotas for any section of the population in any aspect of public life. Nor is there any protective legislation.

Official bodies concerned with women's development 2.45 In addition to the KOAW (a party organisation mentioned earlier), two official bodies play a significant role in the education and training of women to eventually to lead their integration with development: (i) The Rural Development Department has a fair sized programme for women's development as a part of

the Integrated Rural Development Projects. It has a fully staffed women's department to plan and implement this programme (see Part II); (ii) The General Agency for Literacy Campaign (GALC) - a department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing an experimental programme for Family Health through Functional Literacy for women since 1976 and has now launched a mass Literacy Campaign designed to reach 2.8 million women in the ages 15-50, in a period of five years 1979-83.

Government Structures

2.46 Not many women in Government are involved in policy making and planning; nor is there one national agency to coordinate all programmes and services for women.

3. PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

3.1 The picture of the status and position of women in Afghanistan outside city centres that emerges from the preceding section is discouraging: high sex ratio negligable literacy rate; minimal access to education; preferential treatment of boys in the culture leading to low nutritional and health care of girls; higher mortality among female infants and women in the reproductive age and younger girl children; repeated child bearing and high maternal mortality; low employment potential and exploitation; little decision making authority in the family or outside; subject to insecurity arising from polygamy and the privileges that men enjoy and women are denied; little legal redress; virtually a prisoner of a male dominated social system that is weighted against her, shut away from access to forms and paths of change and behind barriers of anonymity.

3.2 These observations could apply in kind if not in degree to women in several other societies in Asia or Africa or the Middle-east. What makes the situation different or special in Afghanistan that will determine the strategy for women's development? Three factors strike one: religion, isolation and non-status.

Religion and Women

3.3 Tenets of Islam are interpreted in a way that is detrimental to women's development. There is no evidence/Islam considers women /that inferior. On the contrary they played important and active roles in political, social and economic matters. But over the years customs seem to have grown which acquired the mantle of religious sanction and which have reduced women to their present situation of suppression and subjugation.

Isolation

3.4 What strikes one most vividly as one visits the countryside is the total isolation of women from outside influence - the high mud walls that shut them in also shuts out any wind of change. As one drives past, women

turn around and away symbolising a total rejection of any outside impressions that might modify their view of life. Men even seem to keep any modernising knowledge or information of any new reforms that the government might introduce from reaching women lest it disturb their total domination.

Non-participation 3.5 Above all, women hardly seem to count in the community or national life. For all intents and purposes they seem to be nonentities. Even at the highest policy and planning level there is hardly any discussion of the women's position, needs nor of how she can be promoted to play her role in development. Her views are never sought, and her acquiescence in whatever is decided is taken for granted. To talk about integration of women into development in this context seems far ahead of the times. Concepts of development do not operate even among rural men and are a strange language to women.

The role & status of women 3.6 At the same time it must be recognised that even within this general picture, there are differences in the role and status of women between urban and rural, between ethnic groups, between settled and nomadic, and between regions. Women in urban areas tend to discard the chadari and are exposed to the influence of education and the media. Nomadic women are more economically active, enjoy greater physical freedom and suffer less inhibition. Women are more active among the Turkic groups in Northern Afghanistan than other ethnic groups.

Outwardly there may be a strict observance of segregation of the sexes but in fact the men consult their senior wives on the size of hard, when they should shear sheep etc. But he does not own this up outside because Turkman proverb says that "he is a coward who consults the woman"! Carpets are woven only by women and this makes her an economic asset. A woman in carpet weaving communities has to be strong, to provide reproductive and economic (carpet) services expected of her.

3.7 Among the Nuristanis, the women do most of the agriculture labour. In the Tajik society, seclusion is more apparent than real. Few decisions are made by the majlis (village council) without consulting the women, although they seldom appear at council meetings. Village women rarely wear the chadari. They work in the fields with their husbands and fathers, and a chadari would be impractical. But when Tajik village women move out to towns and cities, as their husbands and fathers seek new economic opportunities, the chadari becomes a symbol of modernisation and progress, because to wear it indicates that the wearer no longer has to work in the fields.

3.8 In Pashtun society, women have little formal power and seldom move in public when strangers are in the area. However, behind the mud walls and inside the tent, they do have influence, not only in decision making covering domestic affairs, but they also often influence their husbands and sons on political and other issues discussed at local councils.

Reachability

3.9 Basically, however the Afghan woman whatever tribe or group she may be belong to, is culturally and socially severely inhibited. It is difficult for outsiders to penetrate the physical and cultural walls which shut her away from most interventions for change. Little that happens in the outside reach her and while she may suffer in silence poor health, loss of children or inequities, the concept of change or her own initiative in bringing it about does not exist. But within this general picture there are doubtless differences between one group and another and between regions.

Selection of Target Groups

3.10 Programmes for women could profitably start with target groups which are less inhibited and more receptive to change:

for example, women in urban and semi urban centres, women in settled population as against those belonging to nomadic or semi nomadic, women working in organised sectors or those already engaged in economic activities. Factors determining priority are not only the women's own involvement in socio-economic activities and the degree of social and cultural freedom they enjoy, but also the attitudes of the men.

Starting Points

3.11 It might be easier to start programmes for women with such groups building upon the cohesion of the kinship system than in areas where the people are suspicious of all outside, especially government, intervention. Even in starting with these target groups mentioned, the approach has to be tactful, within the cultural framework. It is important that any strategy adopted should hook on to the points already familiar and acceptable, not destroy what exists but expand from what growing points are already available.

3.12 At the same time it is equally important to start working with other groups, even if in experimental way, to prepare the ground for future programmes. Typical example would be women in the central provinces.

Close to life Concerns

3.13 Perhaps approach to women's development has to start with very simple, concrete and close to life beginnings. What women understand and yearn for is better health for themselves and their children, not to have to watch helplessly so many children die so early, to be able to augment their family earnings and to improve ever so little the quality of their lives. It is only when they see that they have the power to change the immediate and less controversial aspects of their lives, can they be helped to work for more abstract and corporate forms of self expression.

3.14 While such grass root level foundations are being laid, changes need to be brought about at the same time (a) at the planning, policy and administrative levels to systematically bring women into the main stream of national life, and (b) to change attitudes of the community in general and men in particular towards women and their place in national life. Without a micro-level action to bring out psychological and attitudinal changes in the community, macro level policy action is not likely to penetrate to the people.

4. GOVERNMENT PLANS AND ACTIONS

4.1 The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is committed to bring about equality of rights of women in all social, economic, cultural and civil aspects

Decree No. 7, issued in October 1978 has the potential for altering significantly the status of women in Afghanistan. This law abolishes the bride price or exchange of any money or commodity for a girl given in marriage. It also sets a minimum marriage age for boys and girls, and bars forced marriages.

4.2 Universalisation of primary education is a priority programme and will provide basic education to girls thus laying the foundation for women's participation in their own development.

4.3 The Government has launched a five year mass literacy campaign beginning from May 1979 aiming at making all men, women and out of school children in the ages 8 - 50 literate.

4.4 The Government is giving increased importance for the establishment of Day Care Centres and kindergartens, establishment of women's development centres in rural areas (through the RDD), construction of hostels and quarters for women workers, provision of potable water supply, extension of basic health services, establishment of agricultural cooperatives, and the establishment of peasants cooperative funds for assisting petty land owners and landless peasants.

4.5 The main objectives of the new Economic and Social Development Plan (1979 - 83) are the implementation of the guidelines of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which shall be realised through participation and continuous cooperation of the working people of the country, rational concentration of domestic resources and foreign aid and effective utilization of the national, human and financial resources,

whereby the country's economic backwardness will be eliminated, national product will grow, social progressive changes will take place, and the people's living standards will rise. (23)

4.6 In terms of specific programmes of relevance to UNICEF and of likely impact on and for women the main objectives are:

- development of material and technical infrastructure for national production, establishment of new branches of industries and utilisation of all natural and human resources available in the country (implications for: women's education, training, employment, day care centres)

- land improvement, strengthening and equipping the land with agricultural machinery and facilities for achieving desired growth of the agricultural sector (implications for women's training, participation, wages)

- to develop national economic structure through communication, roads and water supply

- to raise the living standards of the people. Strengthening the system of wholesale trade and consumer cooperatives

- to eliminate illiteracy, universalise primary education, develop public health, culture and social security

- modernising work methods

- training of national cadres and raising of vocational standards

4.7 While it can be claimed that the realisation of all these objectives will directly and indirectly benefit women, there is no specific mention in the plan of the place of women in the plan either as the target or the participating group. It is not possible to

assess from the plan how one half of the population is going to benefit or participate in this development , and whether they are in the picture at all.

4.7 Perhaps this in itself could constitute a point of relevance for UNICEF intervention - to focus the attention of government on the implications of the plan for women and the need to define specific targets and strategies.

4.8 In the meanwhile there are obvious areas in the plan of relevance to women which can be defined and supported by UNICEF assistance, building on the activities already established. Among these would be: health and sanitation, nutrition, safe water, child care, maternal health, education and training, literacy.

PART II

UNICEF PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

A. OVERALL TRENDS

UNICEF in Afghanistan - Fifties & - Sixties

1. The UNICEF has been functioning in Afghanistan since 1949. In the initial years, it was involved primarily in assisting the establishment of health services for children and mothers. Later the programme was broadened to provide a wider range of assistance not only in the health sector but in the field of education as well. In fact towards the end of the 1960's, UNICEF was providing a considerable input into the training programme for primary school teachers. However, the direct input for the benefit of women was relatively small.

Early Seventies

2. In the early 1970's UNICEF responded to the emergency caused by the severe drought and entered the field of safe drinking water through a programme of well drilling and provision of pumps. During this period, UNICEF also began assisting in establishing and equipping a Transport and Equipment Maintenance Organisation, and helped in training nurses and midwives in carrying better health care to women and children.

3. All through these 28 years, the programmes of health, water supply and education, although directed primarily to children, had some direct and a large indirect benefit for mothers.

Development since 1977

4. The 1977-78, UNICEF plan of assistance was designed in a more comprehensive way than before, to assist the Government, through its Ministries and Departments, in improving and developing programmes that would benefit children and their mothers on as wide a base as possible. For the first time there were direct inputs for women's development as a part of effective services to children. Two programmes were assisted in 1977-78 as an exploratory step for a possible enlargement in the 5 year plan 1978-82: (a) The (Rural) Women's Training Programme through the Rural Development Department (RDD), and (b) the Family Health Functional Literacy Programme for rural women through the General Agency for Literacy Campaign (GALC), Ministry of Education.

(a) The Rural Women's Training Programme

5. The RDD intended to establish a women's training centre in one of its Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) areas, in order to train rural women participation in socio - economic development process. A pilot training project was initiated in Charde-Ghorband, about 150 Km North West of Kabul in Parwan Province. UNICEF assisted with supplies and equipment and technical assistance to the extent available locally in the absence of a project officer. The RDD had a small staff of two or three young women to implement the project. Due to various reasons, including unresolved policy questions under the previous government, not much headway could be made in the early part of 1978. After the Revolution (April 1978), however, the RDD was able to move more purposefully ahead and organise the first training course for about 100 rural women in family, child and maternal health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, cooking, sewing and embroidery, home management and literacy. The positive experiences of this pilot effort led to the formulation of a larger-sized programme of women's development centres as a part of integrated rural development projects (IRDP) in the UNICEF 5 year plan of assistance for 1978-82.

(b) Family Health Function Literacy Project for Rural Women

6. The General Agency for Literacy Campaign was implementing an experimental programme of Functional Literacy for Family Health Education of Rural Women in Kohdaman, a rural sub-district about 40 Km north of Kabul. UNESCO and UNFPA were assisting the project with technical expertise. Since the target group and areas of concern were of direct interest to UNICEF, a small amount of assistance was extended by UNICEF for the training of women instructors and for the provision of training materials.

Programme of Assistance 1978-82

7. These initial experiences with programmes directly oriented to rural women and their training and service needs laid the groundwork for intensified and enlarged new assistance. Together with the very clear priorities established by the new Government which came to power in April 1978, they helped to reformulate programme components of the Plan of Operations for 1978-82. The picture that emerges of UNICEF planned inputs of benefit to women directly and indirectly is somewhat as shown in the table on the next page.

Table 1. Analysis of UNICEF input of direct and indirect benefit to women (1978-82)*

Programme	Total UNICEF Planned Input 1978-82	Rough estimate of percentage of column (2) that is of benefit to women	
		Directly	Indirectly or Partially
1	2	3	4
I. General Resources	$		
1. Assistance to RDD	2,123,800	32 %	16 %
2. Rural Water Supply	2,960,200	-	40 %
3. Basic Health Services	1,736,200	11 %	20 %
4. Education			
Formal	1,841,300	15 %	-
Nonformal	543,000	75 %	25 %
II. Noted			
1. Primary Education	900,000	15 %	-
2. Functional Literacy for women	550,000	75 %	25 %
3. Motivation and Child Care Programme	525,000	80 %	20 %
4. Prototype accommodation for women workers	242,000	100 %	-
5. Rural Drinking Water Supply	4,100,000	-	40 %

* These are only ad hoc estimates, based on observation and on the nature of the programme. For example, rural water supply is intended to reach whole communities consisting of men, women and children. It is not directly oriented to women, her knowledge of her access how to use the facility etc. However it can be supposed that to its benefit does flow to her indirectly through the community. public Again in the basic health services, only a very small proportion water (about 11%) of women are able to use the facilities due to cultural system and other factors, and lack of women health personnel. Programmes which directly reach women are the dai training programme, family guidance, training courses for ANMs, nurses and women doctors, and health centres where there are women health personnel. Another 20% can be estimated to benefit indirectly through health services to their children, laboratory services etc.

8. Of the total amount of $21.52 m planned for programmes, approximately 14% represents the direct input reaching women, and 24% is of indirect or partial impact on women. Not only has the total UNICEF assistance increased from $1.5 m per year in the two year period 1975 and 1976 to a little over $4. m per year in the period 1978-82 but there is a distinct and direct input of direct benefit for women for the first time in the history of UNICEF in Afghanistan.

Factors Contributing to this New Orientation

9. Several factors have made this possible: first, the importance given by the new Government to equalising the status of women and men through policy declarations and decrees; second, the national priority to eliminate illiteracy among women (and men); third, the government's keenness to universalise primary education, provide preschool child care, and extend health services and water supply to reach larger sections of the population, which has contributed to the designing and enlargement of programmes that will involve and benefit women directly and indirectly; and fourth, the emergence of a political organisation of women (The Khalqi Organisation of Afghan Women or KOAW) with its provincial units working for the awakening and uplift of women.

UNICEF Structure

10. The new emphasis on women's development activities has been further facilitated by the appointment of a full time Project Officer for Education and Women's Development, since January 1979. This has made it possible to provide technical assistance to the Ministries and organisations concerned with women's improvement, and help to initiate and coordinate programmes. The UNICEF office in Kabul is also staffed with a fair proportion of women staff including those in senior positions, which in itself helps to bring needed insights into the problems and needs of women as they affect the lives and well-being of children.

UNICEF and other UN. Agencies

11. While the system of cooperative relationships has always been in effect between UNICEF and various organisations of the UN system, certain special efforts made in recent years deserve mention as they have helped to strengthen UNICEF programmes for women. Since 1978 UNICEF has been cooperating with UNFPA in the training programmes of dais (traditional mid-wives); UNICEF supported a one member mission as a part of the ILO Employment Mission to Afghanistan in early 1978 to study the employment situation of women; close working partnership is

being built with the WHO adviser on family health, in matters relating to health programmes in general and in designing training materials on health in particular; close and continuing working relationships have been established with the UNESCO team working in the areas of planning, teacher training, and adult education.

In fact the UNICEF input into the women's literacy programme has been designed as part of a tripartide support to the national literacy programme, the other partners being UNDP and UNFPA. UNICEF has also taken full advantage of every UN activity of relevance to its concerns with women such as UNESCO sponsored Population Education seminar on library and documentation services especially as it relates UNICEF's special concern of women and children, and the FAO sponsored study of role of women in rural development.

These links help in understanding the status and problems of women in total perspective, and in designing and guiding programmes in an inter-related and realistic manner.

B. PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

1. The following major programmes to which UNICEF gives or proposes to give support will be dealt with in this section:

of direct impact on women

1. Women's Development Project (RDD)
2. Literacy Programme for Women (GALC)
3. Motivation and Child Care programme (KOAW)
4. Prototype Hostels for Women (Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education)

of direct or partial impact women

1. Primary Education (Ministry of Education)
2. Rural Water Supply (Ministry of Water & Power and Ministry of Public Health)
3. Basic Health Services (including Dai Training Programme) (Ministry of Public Health)

of Direct Impact on Women

1. Women's Development Project

Nature of Activity

1.1. The programme entails women-specific activities. At the same time, being a part of the Integrated Rural Development project, it is inter-related with other developmental activities in the project area, especially with health services, education, drinking water supply and environmental sanitation.

Target Population

1.2. The target is to establish 16 main centres and 64 sub-centres for women to cover about 80 communities, about 10,000 rural women ~~and~~ directly through various activities of the project. In addition, these activities are expected to influence several hundred more women in the rural areas in the neighbourhood of these centres and sub-centres. There is no prescribed age limit. However, emphasis is given to women in the age range 18 to 45 and to children under 7. The plan aims to set up women's centres in 15 out of 21 IRD project areas during the 5 years.

Objective

1.3. The objective of the project is to establish a women's centre in each IRD Project area which will train women in the communities around in areas of common concern. Emphasis is given to health, hygiene and sanitation, food and nutrition especially of pregnant mothers and children under three, mother and child care, play and education activities for

children in age 3 to 7, and training in income generating skills. The programme is women-specific.

Key problems to which addressed

1.4. The project aims to help and train rural women in dealing with problems relating to

- poor maternal health
- malnutrition among children and high infant mortality
- diseases caused by unsafe drinking water particularly among children
- poor dietary practices in the family
- poor hygiene and sanitation practices
- ~~home management and~~ lack of labour saving devices
- lack of literacy and education
- low economic level
- lack of resources and skills to augment family income
- lack of facilities for educational and play activities for children of preschool age

Programme Components

1.5. In order to help rural women in overcoming these problems, the project seeks to establish Women's Development Centre and sub-centres in project areas, and through them train local women in

- better child and mother care
- better family health, nutrition and hygiene
- income generating skills
- better home management
- literacy and further education
- Organising child care centres

Time span

1.6. The programme is phased over a period of 5 years, 1978-82

UNICEF Inputs

1.7. UNICEF assistance to this project is part of a larger support to the RDD in implementing integrated programme of social services consisting of health water supply, nutrition, education and women's training, in IRD project areas. The input for the women's project is $680,000 for equipment and supplies to main and sub-centres, training costs of national personnel in Afghanistan, study/observation visits abroad, construction of prototype buildings for women's centres, staff support and honorarium to resource persons.

1.8. The full-time project officer for Education and Women's Development provides advice and technical help to the Women's Department of RDD in planning and

implementing the programme and in training the national personnel and in preparing training material. Assistance of national and international resource persons is obtained whenever needed.

National Group Responsible

1.9. The Rural Development Department is responsible for implementing the programme. It has a women's Department with 8 women members in charge of the programme. Each women's centre in the project area has 2-3 full-time staff and 2-3 part-time staff. The General Director of the Department of Social Services in RDD is in over-all supervisory and administrative charge of the programme.

Achievement

1.10. So far one centre has been established and about 160 women (ages 14-30) have been benefitted in various activities, surveys have been completed in the second area (Baraki Barak in Logar Province), preliminary studies have been made in four other provinces: Herat, Zabul, Nimroz and Badakhshan, designs for prototype buildings have been completed, and sites acquired in three areas. Training of trainers in the women's department in the RDD is underway.

Assessment of Impact

1.11. The project has been in operation for too short time to make an objective assessment, or to create a substantial impact. However, in the brief span of activity, the following observations have been possible:

- A group of 8 women at Headquarters and 6 women in the field have built a fair degree of leadership skills in the programme. They have learnt to make surveys, establish communication with rural women, and assess problems and needs.
- A group of over 160 rural women have attended the centre for discussions, training and literacy - creating an awareness in the communities around about the need and directions of change, especially in health practices, nutrition and mother care.
- The men in these communities have supported the programmes, and this in itself is a step torward.

Women's Participation

1.12. The staff of the Women's Department of the RDD have been associated with every stage of programme formulation and implementation. The staff, all women, of the women's centre in the project area have also been associated in the organisation of field activities.

1.13. The President, Vice President and General Director of Department of Social Services RDD have been involved in policy and over-all plan decisions. From UNICEF, while the project officer has been working with the RDD team on technical and support matters, the Representative has discussed policy matters with the President and senior officials of RDD.

Evaluation

1.14. It is too early to carry out a full evaluation. Such an evaluation can be undertaken only when the programme has been in operation without interruption at least for one year. However, two types of case studies are proposed in the near future, one sponsored by UNICEF, and the second by the Government through the Kabul University Research Faculty in cooperation with the RDD.

A monthly progress report proforma has been prepared by the project officer for use by RDD in monitoring the work of the centres.

Problems Encountered

1.15. The project went through very smoothly for the first 3 months of the year, and made fast progress in all aspects. Since April, field visits have had to be suspended due to security reasons, setting back the implementation of the programme in project areas. Building designs have been prepared but construction could not start. Activities have had to be confined to Kabul. If this situation continues, the target set for this year cannot be reached.

1.16. There are no trained women to be in charge of the programme either at headquarters or in the provinces. Young women have to be trained on the job for their various responsibilities.

1.17. For social and cultural reasons, many young women are not willing to go and work in the provinces. This limits the human resources for organising and training in the field.

1.18. In most of the project areas in the distant provinces, it is not possible to find even primary school graduate girls to organise the centre, since there had been no girls school. One of the preparatory steps to start a women's programme would seem to be to start a village primary school for girls.

1.19. It is difficult to start a women's programme in an area where there has been no developmental activity eg. Khashroad in Nimroz province. In such cases it is seen to be wiser to first start a health centre and familiarise the community with such services, gain their confidence before starting a women's programme.

1.20. Many Basic Health centres in the IRD projects have no woman health worker. This makes integration of the women's centre's activities with those of the BHC especially in respect of mother and child health difficult. Besides, when the women's centre advises women to consult the health centre, and there is no woman health worker to consult in the centre, the programme lacks practical support.

1.21. The women's centre's activities are not yet fully integrated into developmental plans and programmes of IRD project. The entire planning of IRD project, the implementation of its several components and the training of project personnel are yet to achieve the truly integrated approach envisaged. However, all efforts are being made towards this objective.

1.22. In spite of these difficulties (not unusual or special to Afghanistan), conditions are very favourable and supportive in the RDD to the programme and there is a high degree of faith and conviction in the programme and its goals.

1.23. The period of enforced headquarters activity is being used in providing in-depth training to the national staff, preparing training materials, designing special aspects of the programme.

1.24. The support most needed is in the preparation of training resources and materials. It has been relatively easy in recent months to get resource help from WHO adviser in preparing training materials on health. In designing child care centre programme and in training the Women's Department personnel in the subject, services of a consultant

from India has been obtained, first to work with the national team in Kabul and then to follow it up by sending the national team to India for observation and study. Similar help would be needed at later stages in organising other special[12] aspects of the programme such as income-generating activities on a cooperative basis. Other resources locally available are fully utilised.

2. Literacy Programme for Women

Nature of Activity

2.1 The programme is intended to organise (a) literacy classes for women in the age group 15-50 in urban and rural areas, (b) follow-up learning activities for new literate women (c) and basic literacy courses for out of school children a major proportion of whom are girls.

Target Population

2.2 The number of illiterate women in the ages 15-50 is estimated to be about 2.8 million. In addition there are about 1.8 million out of school children in the age group 8-14.

Objective

2.3 Literacy level among women is very low, being only about 1%. The lack of literacy and education is a severe handicap for women's participation in development. The government therefore has undertaken a mass literacy programme to eliminate illiteracy among men and women in the age group 15-50 and provide basic education to all out of of school children in the age group 8-14 in a period of 5 years. It has launched a mass literacy campaign to make over 8 million people literate in this period. Of these, 2.8 million are women.

Specific Problems to which Addressed

2.4 The objective of the programme is not only to make women literate but to provide information and messages of interest and concern to women such as health and hygiene, sanitation, family life, role of women in society and child care through the literacy programme as well as through follow up learning activities.

Programme Components

2.5 The basic literacy programme covers about 310 learning hours divided into three stages of about 100 hours each. The literacy materials consist of 3 books, a teacher's guide, an evaluation booklet, a class registration book and a set of posters. The main components of the programme are motivation, field organisation enrolment and registration, recruitment and training of teachers printing and distribution of materials, evaluation and monitoring.

Time span

2.6 The literacy campaign covers a five year period beginning from 1979.

UNICEF Inputs

2.7 UNICEF assistance under General Resources and Noting amounts to about $1 million for two years and is intended to support (a) the printing of literacy learners materials for the targets of women and children for the first two years, (paper and printing supplies) (b) training costs of literacy instructors, supervisors and organisors, (c) classroom supplies like blackboards and chalk, (d) training materials like cassette recorders, PA systems. etc, and (e) transport for distribution of material.

In addition, the Project Officer for Education and Women's Development gives technical assistance in various aspects of the programme, and the Assistant Programme officer gives programme support.

National Group Responsible

2.8 The General Agency for Literacy Campaign (GALC) a department of the Ministry of Education is responsible for implementing the programme. It is guided in policy and planning matters by a high level council under the chairmanship of the Education Minister. It has set up a Provincial Directorate of Literacy Campaign in each of the 26 provinces. In respect of the women's programme, GALC works with the Khalqi (People's) Organisation of Afghan Women (KOAW), - a party organisation working for the uplift of women and for their participation in national development. A women's unit in the field operation Department of GALC has the special responsibility for the women's literacy programme.

Assessment of Impact

2.9 The first year's (1979-80) target for women was 200,000 (out of a total target of one million). The campaign started in May 1979. So far only about 20,000 women have been enrolled, whereas the target of 700,000 for men has already been exceeded (reported enrolment 900,000). However, compared with the enrolment in previous years which hardly reached 2000 women per year, this year's achievement is not insignificant.

Women's Participation

2.10 The curriculum and literacy books are the same for men and women and have been designed by a inter disciplinary group largely consisting of men. In the motivation and survey activities, the personnel of the women's unit have the full responsibility. The KOAW which also participates in motivation and organisational work, is staffed fully by women and works in the community through women workers, who are both paid and voluntary.

Evaluation

2.11 A monitoring system has been devised by the UNICEF project officer jointly with the UNESCO expert. This is designed to obtain feed back data every quarter.

Recently a review was made by UNDP (one of the other two UN agencies assisting the literacy campaign) jointly with the President of GALC and the representative of the Ministry of Planning. The UNICEF project officer also participated along with the UNESCO expert. The review helped to measure the achievements against targets, to identify difficulties and to decide upon further action.

A joint review by the three agencies of UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA is planned for early 1981.

Problems Encountered

2.12 Factors that hamper progress in respect of women's enrolment in literacy and education activities are:

a) strong resistance from men and elders on religious and cultural grounds in rural areas
b) lack of motivation and incentive for women themselves to join literacy classes.
c) lack of educated women in most rural and remote communities to serve as teachers
d) lack of time and leisure because of constant child rearing responsibilities
e) lack of transport and other facilities to enable women organisors to visit communities and carry out field work.

- and how dealt with

2.13 No single solution can overcome these problemes in a complex society as in Afghanistan. Continuous efforts are being made through posters, publicity work, house to house visits, radio talks etc. to motivate women. But it is not an easy task. A combination of different approaches is needed including -

- a preparatory period of information and persuasion of the community about the benefits of education to women for the family and community well being
- a planned programme of motivation of women through programmes of health and hygiene, child and mother care, home management skills. In other words, literacy may not by itself be the best starting point in all situations. The best entry point is what women are most interested in and need. If pursued logically, it could be expected to lead around to literacy as a more efficient tool to reach their objective.
- establishing village/primary schools in rural communities for girls to universalise primary education and to provide future women teachers
- organising a crash (perhaps one to two year) programme for local women to prepare them as literacy teachers cum community workers
- making literacy part of an integrated programme of women's training and development, so that women see its relevance to improvement in the quality of their lives.

Support needed and sources

2.14 Being a mass programme of unprecedented magnitude and a short-time span for realisation, the government has sought assistance from several UN and bilateral agencies. Main areas of support needed and sources from which expected/provided are:

- Printing press and facilities	UNDP, UNFPA, CIDA
- Printing paper and supplies	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA
- Training cost in Afghanistan	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA
- Training fellowships abroad	UNDP, UNFPA
- Other classroom audio visual and other equipment	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA
- Transport	UNICEF, UNDP
- Technical Expertise	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA
- Building for GALC and Provincial Directorates of Literacy Campaign	World Bank (proposed)
- Food rations (800,000) for Instructors	WFP

It will thus be seen that the UN assistance to the National Literacy Campaign has been designed as an integrated input of UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA.

3. Motivation and Child Care Programme

Nature of Activity

3.1 The project aims (a) to establish a national and five regional centres for training key level women workers; and (b) to set up a centre for the production of educational toys and materials.

Target Population

3.2 The project is aimed at women and children in urban and rural areas.

Objective

3.3 The primary objective is (a) to build a cadre of key level trained women workers who will in turn train other women in the provinces in setting up women's and children's activities. The activities will include, family health, child care, production of education toys, and weaning foods, increasing family income, supply of potable water, labour saving devices in the home, education (including literacy), and above all aim at bringing women out of their seclusion, and (b) to set up a pilot unit for designing and producing suitable wooden toys for children.

Problems to which addressed

3.4 Low development of women due to many social, cultural and economic factors, and

- lack of locally produced low cost play and educational toys for children for promoting their full emotional, psychological and cognitive development.

Programme Components

3.5 (a) Setting up one national and 5 regional centres for training women workers from the provinces in organising women's and children's development activities. The centres will set up demonstration activities as part of the training programme.

(b) Setting up 10 local centres around each regional centre to conduct educational, training and service activities oriented to identified needs determined by local surveys and discussions.

(c) As a part of training, sending 4 to 6 women from the national and regional centres for 4 to 6 week study visit to selected developing countries

(d) Identifying, designing and producing prototype educational toys (wooden) and set up a production unit for the purpose.

Time span

3.6 The project has been approved under 'noted' funds and will start when funds are available, most probably in 1980. The project is initially planned for two years.

UNICEF Inputs

3.7 UNICEF inputs will consist of providing:

(a) advisory and technical services through project and programme officers, and suitable consultancies

(b) local training costs and training costs and facilities for study visits abroad

(c) supplies, equipment and simple furniture for the national, regional and local centres and for the production unit for toys

(d) transport facilities for the national and regional centres.

Total estimated cost for 2 years $525,000

National Group Responsible

3.8 The Khalqi Organisation of Afghan Women (KOAW) will be the agency mainly responsible for implementing the project. It is a branch of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Party and has branches in all the provinces.

The project is expected to start only in 1980.

Achievement and Assessment of Impact

3.9 Preliminary discussions have been held with the KOAW and some steps were also taken to locate a building for the national centre. Actual work will be started when funds are pledged by a donor country.

Women's Participation

3.10 The project has been jointly designed by UNICEF and KOAW, and mostly by women. Implementation will be almost all by women, except perhaps in the production unit where it might be necessary to employ men technicians.

Other Observations

3.11 This project is unique in that it is planned to be implemented wholly through a party organisation. While such an organisation has the disadvantage of having to depend on limited party funds and also of having heavy part work responsibilities, it has the unusual strength of being closer to the grass roots than a government set-up, and having wider access to people in the countryside. Some very interesting and valuable experiences could be expected to result from the project.

4. Prototype Accommodation for Women Workers

Nature of Activity

4.1 Designing and construction of (a) prototype accommodation for women students of teacher training colleges, and (b) quarters for Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) attached to Basic Health Centres.

Target Population

4.2 The activity is intended to provide residential accommodation for 384 women students of teacher training colleges and quarters for 12 ANMs

Problem to which addressed

4.3 (a) lack of suitable residential facilities for women workers:

In a culture where women are severaly inhibited to move out of their homes and participate in community activities, the provision of suitably designed hostels for women is a powerful incentive, ensuring as it does, security and and functional convenience. This is an area to which little attention has been given before in Afghanistan. As a result of UNICEF advocacy with Ministries of Education and Public Health, this programme of designing and constructing prototype accommodation for women workers is being taken up (under General Resources supplemented by Noted funding).

(b) lack of suitable design of hostels that will be compact with a minimum of circulation space, short service runs, if possible one which will be based on the use of solar energy.

Objective

4.4 The project is therefore intended to meet these two problems on a pilot basis:

(a) provide prototype living accommodation for 96 women students in each of four teacher training colleges in Kabul, Kandahar, Gardez and Jalalabad (since renamed Taroonshar) and housing for two female nurses attached to each of six basic health centres, (with their families); and

(b) permit experimentation with innovative designs which will achieve at the same time efficiency and economy

Programme Components	4.4	(a) Designing of buildings in consultation with national authorities and taking into account climatic, geological (eg. earthquake zone) environmental and cultural factors (b) Preparation of preliminary sketch designs, cost estimates and models. (c) Training of a national engineer/architect in preparing working drawings under the guidance of UNESCO Principal Architect, Bangkok. (d) Acquisition of site and construction of buildings.
Time Span	4.5	two-three years
UNICEF Input	4.6	(a) Consultancy services in designing and costing the buildings, of Principal Architect, UNESCO Regional Office, Bangkok. (b) Funding to the extent of $440,000 for women's hostels (from General Resources and Noted funds) and $42,000 for ANM quarters (from Noted funds).
National Group Responsible	4.7	(a) Ministry of Education for the Women's hostels; (b) Ministry of Public Health for the ANM quarters
Women's Participation	4.8	Women officers from UNICEF have been associated with the preliminary discussions. On the national side, mainly men engineers and architects and administrators have been involved. It was at one time proposed that a woman architect would be responsible for preparing working drawings but this has since been changed.
Assessment of Impact etc	4.9	The project will be implemented only next year and impact or problems can be assessed only when women workers move in

Of Indirect or Partial Impact on Women

5. Rural Water Supply

Nature of Activity

5.1 (a) Providing safe drinking water to rural population through wells, pumps, piped and reservoir systems.

(b) Training national personnel in the various skills

(c) Assisting in establishing a working system of repair and maintenance

(d) Bringing out handbooks and other publications for the use of national personnel at various levels.

(e) Motivating and informing communities in the importance of safe drinking water and in the proper use of water supply systems.

Target Population

5.2 The total number of beneficiaries estimated to be reached by these efforts is about 800,000. It would be safe to place the number of women beneficiaries at about 40% or 320,000.

Objectives

5.3 The overall objective is to provide continuous supply of potable drinking water to the rural population and to educate the communities especially the mothers on the importance of safe drinking water for good health.

Problems to which addressed

5.4 Incidence of water contamination and water borne diseases is of a very high order in Afghanistan, particularly among children. Provision of potable drinking water to the rural population thus one of the most important basic needs in the country.

Specifically problems arising out of

(a) The damages caused by direct pumping to the power pumps

(b) interrupted water supply due to lack of storage facilities

(c) lack of rehabilation systems to replace damaged pipes, addition of taps, redesigning schemes etc.

Programme Components

5.5 The programme includes the provision of

- piped water systems for springs and deep wells, using gravity flow or power pumps
- handpumps fitted to deep and shallow wells
- ground and elevated reservoirs for ensuring longer supply (design and construction)
- extension of pipes etc to provide water to larger number of beneficiaries at a wider radius
- backing up installations by a maintenance system at village and rural levels
- establishment of zonal repair and maintenance workshops
- training of personnel in the country and abroad
- preparation and printing of training manuals in English and national languages.

Time Span

5.6 UNICEF assistance to Rural Water Supply programme has been in operation for the last several years. The present project is for five years 1978-82.

UNICEF Inputs

5.7 (a) Provision of equipment and supplies(pipes taps, sockets, pumps and fittings) and transport.

(b) Training costs in the country and abroad

(c) Translation and printing costs of manuals etc

(d) Designing and construction costs of concrete and steel reservoirs

(e) Technical assistance through a team leader, hydrogeologist. Master Driller, and a national pump technician.

Total assistance planned for five years amounts to nearly $7 million.

National Group Responsible

5.8 (a) Ministry of Public Health for Rural Water Supply

(b) Ministry of Public Work for urban water supply

(c) Rural Development Department for water supply to Integrated Rural Development Project areas.

Assessment of Impact

5.9 Already 770 hydrogeological surveys have been carried out, about 90 boreholes have been drilled 1118 handpumps have been installed, 110 piped water schemes have been set up and 14 institutional water systems have been established.

Over 800,000 men, women and children have benefitted. By the end of the project over 2 million would have been reached.

Women's Participation

5.10 Women have not so far participated in the planning or implementation stage. They have only been part of the beneficiaries population.

Problems Encountered

5.11 (a) Constraints on field activity (which it is hoped is only a temporary phase)

(b) Difficulty in ensuring continued maintenance of the systems in working efficiency.

(c) Lack of awareness among village communities especially women about the significance of the water systems for providing safe water and its importance for good health, and about proper use of the water.

Obviously it is important to complement the hardware input by education and training of the communities. It is also necessary to direct the education, information and motivation directly to women who are really the ultimate users of drinking water for the family and the children.

(d) It would also be useful to make specific evaluative studies in selected communities to find out the exact situation regarding the use of the water supply systems by the community as a whole and by specific sections like men, women, children.

6. Basic Health Services

Nature of Activity

6.1 (a) Strengthening Basic Health Centres so as to increase the population coverage, the no: of workers and range of services offered.

(b) Training of dais (traditional midwives)in providing improved services to mothers including ante and post-natal care and care of infants.

(c) Assisting in the development of nursing services and the training of female health personnel.

(d) Developing nutrition surveillance programme, raising level of nutrition - awareness through nutrition education, promoting nutrition rehabilitation for dehydrated children, detection and correction of malnutrition among mothers and children.

(e) Promoting immunisation programme for children

(f) Assisting in establishing multi-level T.B. Control and in lowering endemicity of malaria

(g) Providing supporting services such as ensuring an efficient system of drug supply, and providing simple medicines for common ailments of children,coordining research, development and training; raising the awareness of the importance of communication aids.

Target Population

6.2 Mothers especially pregnant women, infants and children, health workers, research workers, laboratory technicians and doctors.

Objectives

6.3 To provide integrated basic health services to women and children in order to reduce morbidity and mortality and raise their health and nutritional status

Problems to which addressed

6.4 (a) lack of medical care for a majority of women and children particularly in rural areas in general

(b) lack of female health personnel

(c) uneven deliveries of drugs and supplies

(d) lack of training of personnel working in in preventive programmes

(e) high incidence of communicable diseases, mortality and morbidity particularly among children

(f) frequent pregnancies, and maternal mortality

(g) high incidence of malnutrition and deficiency diseases among children

(h) lack of basic health services in rural areas

Time Span

6.5 This is an on going programme. The present project is for the five year period 1978-82.

UNICEF Inputs

6.6 UNICEF inputs consist of

- supplies, transport, operational expenses of vaccination personnel, training costs for TB control project
- anti-malaria drugs, home visit cards, training programmes for Malaria Control Project
- funds and equipment for training programmes, assistance to applied research activities
- assistance to the Child Health Institute in the form of drugs, support to training programmes and the publishing of training manuals.
- supplies, equipment and funds for training auxiliary nurses and midwives and preparing training manual
- supplies and equipment to National Health Laboratory and other laboratories and BHCs; training of lab technicians.
- equipment for setting up cold chain vaccines, syringes and needles for early child immunisation
- training costs and allowances for the Dai training programme

Total funding provided for the 5 year period is nearly 8 million dollars.

National Group Responsible

6.2 The Ministry of Public Health and Rural Development Department

Assessment of Impact

6.3 It is difficult to make quantitative or even qualitative assessment of how much of these health services actually reach women either in preventive, curative or informative way. It would not be far from the fact to assume that a relatively small proportion of rural and poorer women have had access to these benefits and for the rest the impact has been peripheral. The Dai training programme has been successful and has covered nearly 450 dais already.

Women's Participation

6.4 Women have been associated in various training programmes. Women hold senior planning and management positions in the Dai Training Programme in the Institute of Nursing.

Problems Encountered

6.5 (a) Out of an approximate 800,000 births a year, 600,000 are conducted by dais. A vast majority of these mothers have no antenatal care. In short the majority of women of Afghanistan do not get any medical care during pregnancy or delivery except in and around Kabul and at a few BHCs. When this is compared with the planned programme for training dais (only 7500 in the 5 year period) it will be seen how long it will be before rural women get even the minimum of maternity or antenatal care. It indicates the need for a much bigger programme of dai training.

(b) Half the BHCs have no female staff - so there is no antenatal care at these centres. In others the work is of low quality.

(c) Provincial hospitals have no maternity services.

(d) The health infrastructure does not give sufficient coverage to meet the health needs of the rural population.

According to some estimates the present health care system can provide health service for only 35% of the total population; and of this, the proportion of women having access to health services is relatively low.

The government proposes to increase the coverage of health care delivery system during the five year plan through a system of Feldscher workers attached to sub-centres, Roghtia Mals or village level health workers and the trained dais.

The Plan is to provide at least one Feldscher to each of the 314 subcentres.

(e) There is no clear assessment of the extent to which rural women have access to health services and factors which contribute to such low access to determine what steps can be taken to overcome them.

7. Primary Education

Nature of Activity and Programme Component

7.1 Organising inservice training of primary school teachers in handling the new curriculum and text-books being introduced from 1978-79.

Target Population and Time Span

7.2 The project is intended to train nearly 45,000 primary school ~~teachers~~ in a period of 4 years ~~1978-81~~.

Objective and Problem to which addressed

7.3 The Government proposes to universalise primary education for children in the age group 7-14 by the end of the first five year plan. This is in accordance with the Basic Lines of the Government. Accordingly the annual targets of enrolment beginning from Afghan year 1358 (1979-80) are respectively 50, 60, 70, 80% and finally in 1362 100% of eligible children to be enroled. The introduction of the new programme demands the training of all primary school instructors and administrators in the method of using the new materials.

UNICEF Inputs

7.4 UNICEF's assistance is towards the food expenses of the participants at the rate of about $1.16 a day per head for an average duration of 3 weeks.

Total assistance $1,186,000 from General Resources and noted funds.

National Group Responsible

7.5 Ministry of Education, Primary Education Department

Achievement and Observations

7.6 Already 4620 teachers of grades 1 to 5 and administrators have been trained, and another 9380 teachers of the same grades will be trained during the rest of the current academic year.

There is no data at present of how many of these teachers are women or in what specific manner this programme will link up with

(a) increasing the enrolment of girls

(b) relating the training to specific needs of girls especially in rural areas and

(c) increasing the output of women teachers from teacher training institutions.

PART III

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR NATIONAL ACTION

National Machinery

1. Declarations of Government regarding equal rights of women need to be translated into specific action through legal, executive and social action. There is as yet no national machinery.
   a) to ensure that in fact women especially the rural women understand what exactly these equal rights mean and how they should exercise them,
   b) to institute measures to help women overcome their centuries old handicaps and prepare to participate increasingly in national life.
   c) to ensure that every aspect of national activity considers the needs, problems and role of women, eg. health, education, employment, training, etc.
   d) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of measures instituted for the betterment of women to find out what prevents their realisation and what steps can overcome the problems.

Action to Realise Objectives

2. Concerted action is needed to realise the objectives stated in the Basic Line to "ensure the equality of rights of women with men in all social, economic, political cultural and civil aspects", especially in regard to
   a) assessing the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the problems of women's integration into development, in all its cultural diversity
   b) setting up a national machinery to promote women's integrated development
   c) involve women in planning and decision making process
   d) train women cadres in an organised and decentralised manner
   e) promote family guidance as one of the main steps to release women for participation in development and raise family and child health
   f) increase women's participation in the labour force and assist the process by establishing day care centres
   g) ensuring through suitable measures and safeguards that basic services like health and safe water supply actually reach women.

Educating Population in Social Change

3. Since the low status of women arises out of long traditions, attitudes, prejudices, governmental action needs to be supported and accompanied by social and education action to change public opinion and to carry the people with such reforms. The media and nonformal education have a great role to play. Decree No.7 abolishing bride price is a typical example of a well intentioned and much needed reform which could bewilder the population by disturbing long entrenched value systems. Neglect of female children, indifference to and neglect of women's health and well being can be corrected only by raising the consciousness of men and women about the positive role which women should be helped to play in society.

Girls Education

4. The 5 year plan for universalisation of primary education of the Government depends for its achievement to a large degree on how successfully girls especially in rural areas are enrolled. This in turn depends on the establishment of separate girls schools in villages and the training of a cadre of women teachers.

5. Since girls are engaged in domestic chores at an early age, their attendance in full day school programme may not always be accepted. A more flexible nonformal out-of-school organisation of primary schooling might be the answer. Here again the situation varies from region to region and from one ethnic group to another. This is clearly an area for scientific survey and study and experimental pilot programmes. The new policy of the Education Ministry to abolish the system of failures in the primary school, and to use examinations only as a tool for special guidance and help, might help in reducing the ratio of wastage, especially among girls in rural areas.

Diversified teaching materials

6. To provide diversified curricula and materials requires skills and resources not easily available. Diversified teaching materials would help teachers in relating the content to interests of girls in different cultural areas. Socio-anthropological, and sociopsychological studies of major cultural groups are needed to provide data for designing such guide materials.

Residential facilities for Working Women

7. Hostels and living quarters need to be provided especially in provincial and district centres to enable women to undergo training and to work (on the lines of the prototype accommodation being designed by UNICEF).

Reliability of data on women's economic activity

8. There is really no accurate assessment of the role of women in economic activity or of the size and degree of unemployment or underemployment. Evidence seems to indicate that there is probably underestimation (a) partly because of conventional definitions of economic activity which probably excludes unpaid family workers, (b) partly because of lack of access to women by investigators, and (c) also because women themselves do not realise their own contribution to the economy. Especially in respect of rural areas, the official estimates of female labour force seems to be misleading, as women are seen to be as economically active as men in traditional activities. As distinctions between economic and noneconomic activities are quite arbitrary, time budget studies could be undertaken to understand women's contribution to growth and development. Microlevel research studies would also help in collecting information on employment and unemployment situation and skill profiles of rural women.(1)

Potential areas for Economic involvement of women

9. There is much scope for enlarging opportunities for women in the service sector particularly in preparing health personnel, women teacher, extension workers, middle level managerial and marketing assistants.(1)

Livestock

10. Rural and nomad women are closely involved in livestock - in feeding and milking cows, keeping sheep clean and feeding them. Poultry is entirely the women's domain. They make cheese, yogurt and cream for sale. Cultural practice would seem to dictate that the sale proceeds of milk and milk products belong to the private purse of the woman. Milk production and poultry activity thus seem a culturally acceptable activity for Afghan women. This is therefore a favourable area where women's knowledge and skills can be vastly improved.

Handicrafts and Handi-work

11. These play a major role in the country's economy - the major crafts being carpet weaving, embroidery and needlework.

Women constitute the major if not the sole category of workers in these sectors. In view of the significance of the carpet industry it is important to enlighten women in improving the quality and volume of production, improve conditions of work, provide credit and cooperative facilities, and safeguard them from exploitation by local and external markets.

12. Since women work within the household and are restricted by cultural constraints, they have no direct links with the consumers and the market. Even their knowledge of the net income of the product is limited. The work is obtained through intermediaries - contractors, wholesale dealers or nomad women. Inquiry needs to be made into the problems of women carept makers to collect data on the procurement of work, link with the market, the no: of intermediaries, availability of work, level of living (monthly income, indebtedness, housing, health, and nutrition) working conditions (hours of work, place of work, lighting facility, equipment) problems of raw materials, and profit-ratio between the producer and marketer. Such an inquiry would help to take measures to reduce exploitation of women and improve conditions of production.(1)

Women's Cooperatives

13. Women constitute a mere 0.5% of the total membership of agricultural cooperatives. There is obvious need for encouraging more women's cooperatives especially where women are the primary producers (eg. carpets, textiles, milk products, poultry products)

Training Opportunities

14. With the introduction of the land reform by the present Government, the past efforts at modernising agricultural and animal husbandry practices will doubtless be accelerated. This might easily leave women outside developmental process unless organised efforts are made to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

At present women are totally outside of any organised training and upgrading influence.

15. Illiteracy and lack of training opportunities in different aspects of production and marketing are the biggest handicaps for women assuming a larger and more autonomous role in this field. Training facilities to lift women's labour above the unskilled level are practically nonexistent now.

Relating to UNICEF Policy and Programme

General Approach

16. UNICEF's policy in Afghanistan has consistently been to focus attention on the basic needs of children and their mothers as a part of the development of rural areas. Its programmes have been designed to strengthen the Government infrastructure and to reach out to provide basic services in health, education and safe drinking water to children and mothers, eventually even in the most remote village in the country.

17. The emphasis on women (still as mothers and potential mothers) really took on tangible dimension only since the latter part of 1977, through limited but direct programmes of women's training (RDD) and women's functional literacy activities (GALC). This laid the foundation for a bolder and bigger programme oriented to immediate and long term needs of women beginning from latter part of 1978 and enlarging itself in 1979 onwards. If the programmes and projects are implemented as planned, they will provide the first body of direct experience in working for the development of women.

18. The fact that a post of a fulltime Project officer (International) for Education and Women's Development has been created is testimony of the new recognition of the subject by Government and by UNICEF in Kabul. The Project officer and programme officer (National) form a two women complementary team to assist the government departments and agencies in implementing projects. No special problems are encountered in most of the day to day dealings with the government or with project personnel, by the fact of being women. If certain situations do occasionally arise when an expatriate woman does get a slight feeling of neglect or lack of recognition because of her sex, it could be an unconscious behaviour on the national side or an over-sensitiveness on the expatriates side. Even if it did exist, it is no more than what obtains in the society and what women are subject to from the time of their birth. And in a sense it is wholesome to experience it first hand once in a while so one knows its effects in a direct way!

Limited View of Women's role

19. More formidable than problems of attitude or implementation is the unquestioned notion in almost all planners and administrators, that women's programmes mean merely child rearing, sewing, cooking and such like domestic and "feminine" tasks. The concept of woman's role in national life other than that of a ready made housekeeper or family raiser, is not widely recognised.

20. Even within UNICEF, a woman seems to have existence only in relation to her child. Other aspects of her personality and life in her own right or even as they affect her role as mother are only muted. This is somewhat ironical since in the long run, the lower the key on woman's biological role, the greater the possibility of her participation in other national developmental processes.

Future Approaches

21. If children are to regain their birthright of health, food, education etc in the developing world it can be achieved only through women regaining theirs, as individuals in their own right and not as "shadow halves" of men. UNICEF can play a significant role in promoting programmes directed to remove women's handicaps and to give her greater self assurance, autonomy and opportunity. Otherwise, there is a risk that in the concern for promoting children's well being, woman might be seen only in her physical role of a mother, overlooking the fact that she needs several other insights and skills even to help in the cognitive and affective aspects of her child's development.

22. Equally important is it for women's true integration into development that every UN agency gives specific attention to the needs, problems, roles and functions of women in the respective sectors (eg. education, agriculture, employment, health) to study their present status and ensure appropriate action.

23. The International Women's Decade is almost half way, but looking around a society like Afghanistan, it has hardly made a dent on the lives of a majority of women. It is imperative that a concerted and unified action be taken at the International level to see that similar action is taken at the national levels. Women's actual situation is so far removed from the theme of this paper, that several decades of persistent and untiring effort will be required to remove the disabilities under which she labours and to release her full potential.

24. In the Afghanistan context the following could constitute the first steps:

1) To work towards the establishment of a permanent national commission for women's development.

2) Through[1] to focus attention on priority aspects of women's development

3) To work with the several Ministries of the Government such as Planning, Education, Health, RWS, RDD, Employment, Agriculture, to include specific targets and programmes for women's participation

4) To encourage Government to take up simple studies and surveys to collect quantitative and qualitative data on women especially in typical regions and ethnic groups.

5) To design a monitoring system by which every UNICEF assisted project can assess the no: of women reached (in addition to children) and not only of funds expended or supplies provided.

In these efforts UNICEF has a primary role to play

ANNEXES

Annex	I	Background Data
Annex	II	UNICEF Programme Data
Annex	III	References
Annex	IV	Maps

1. POPULATION STRUCTURE

Population Estimate in 1357 (1978-79)

1.1 The Central Statistical Organisation has estimated the population of the country in 1978 as follows:[14]

Table 1. Population

Category	Number of persons	Percentage
Total Population	15,108,000	100.00
Urban	2,134,000	14.13
Rural	11,525,000	76.28
Nomadic	1,449,000	9.59

Table 2. Crude Birth Rate

Population Growth

Total Population of the Country	= 45.21	(per thousand)
Urban Population	= 38.00	" "
Rural Population	= 46.40	" "
Nomadic Population	= 46.40	" "

Table 3. Crude Death Rate

Total Population of the Country	= 21.07	(per thousand)
Urban Population	= 13.00	" "
Rural Population	= 22.40	" "
Nomadic Population	= 22.40	" "

1.2 Taking into account, fertility and mortality rates as well as immigration from villages to towns, the population growth rate is estimated as follows:[14]

Table 4. Growth Rate

Total Population	2.51	per cent
Urban "	3.20	" "
Rural "	2.40	" "
Nomadic "	2.40	" "

Projected Estimates

1.3 Table 5 Population Estimate Predicted For Next Five Years[14]
(Figures in thousands)

Population Category	POPULATION ESTIMATE 1978	POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS 1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Total Population of the Country	15,108	15,488	15,877	16,275	16,685	17,104
Urban Population	2,134	2,202	2,227	2,345	2,420	2,497
Rural Population	11,525	11,802	12,085	12,375	12,672	12,976
Nomadic Population	1,449	1,484	1,520	1,556	1,593	1,631

Sex Ratio

Table 6. Sex Ratio in each 100 persons

Total Population	52	male	48	female
Urban "	51	"	49	"
Rural "	52	"	48	"
Nomadic "	52	"	48	"

1.4 A health study made of three provinces Ghazni, Helmand and Baghlan - brings out the picture of high sex ratio in almost all age groups (see Figure 1 on next page)[15]

2. EDUCATION

Literacy

2.1 The ADS (1975)[3] provides the following data regarding literacy levels in Afghanistan (in respect of settled population):

Table 7. Literacy Level-settled Population

	Literate	Illiterate	Unknown
Total Population (All ages)	11.4	87.8	0.7
" Male	18.7	80.8	0.6
" Female	2.8	96.3	0.9
Urban Total	25.9	73.2	0.9
" Male	35.5	63.8	0.9
" Female	14.8	84.3	0.9
Rural Total	8.8	90.5	0.7
" Male	15.7	83.8	0.5
" Female	0.6	98.4	0.9

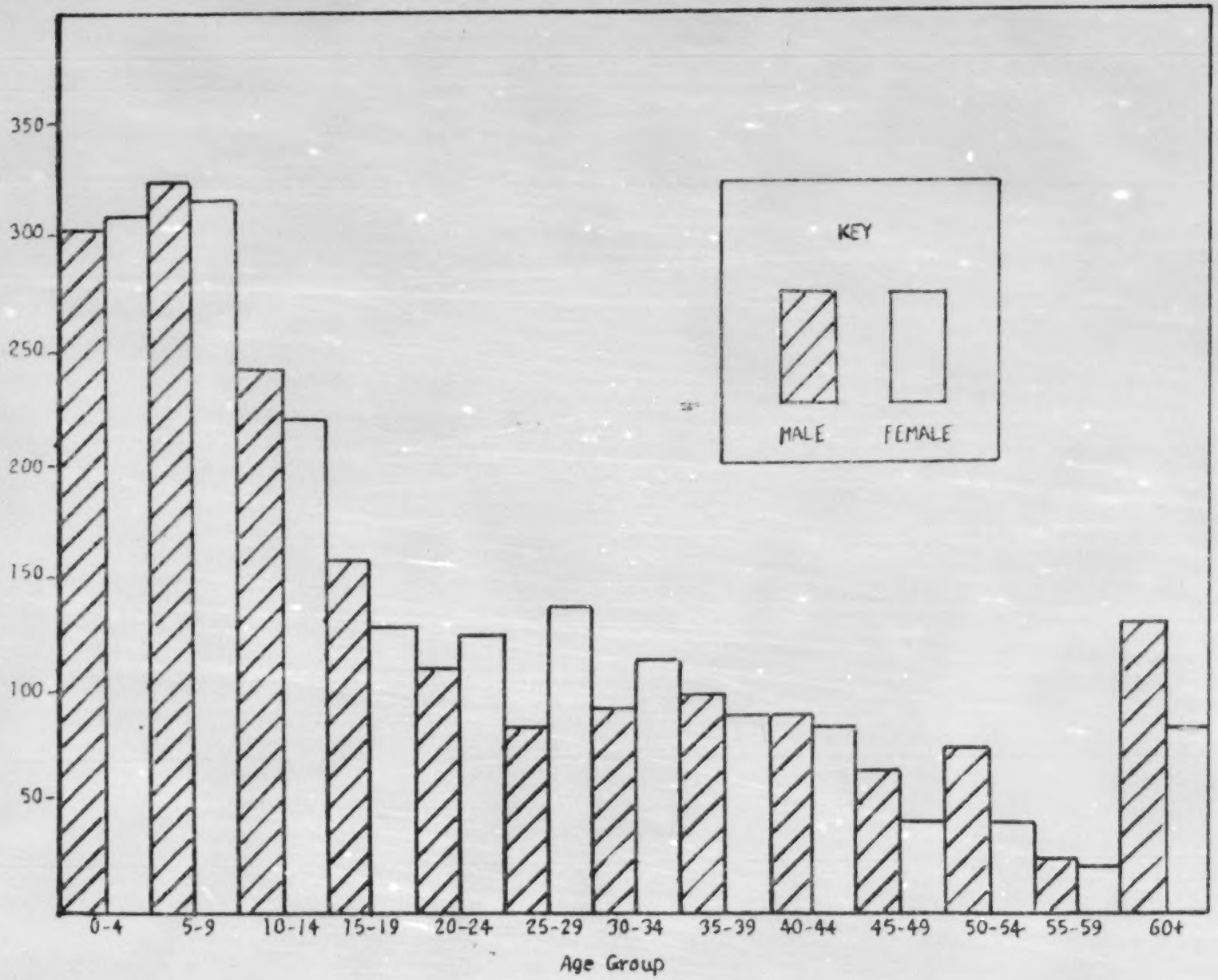


Figure 1 Age and Sex Profile of Population Studied

2.2 Taking the total population settled and nomadic, the latest estimates are[11]

Table 8. Literacy level, Total Population

Illiterate males	95%
Illiterate female	99%

Education Structure

2.3 The education reform of 1975 had introduced an education structure consisting of 8 years of primary and 4 years of secondary. After the Revolution of April 1978, the education structure has been changed to 8 years of primary in two cycles of 4+4 years, and two years of secondary stage.

Enrolment in School

2.4 A study made in June 1978[5] shows the relative enrolment of girls and boys (as in 1977 - 78)

Table 9. Net Enrolment in Schools

	Primary Net* enrolment % (age 7-12)	Secondary Net enrolment % (age 13-18)
Boys	37.5%	13.8%
Girls	8.4%	3.3%

The enrolment ratios between girls and boys show the same degree of discrepancies between urban and rural areas. eg.

Table 10. Enrolment ratios urban & rural (illustrative)

	Primary		Secondary	
	B%	G%	B%	G%
Kabul city	66.9%	49.4%	41.0%	27.2%
Baghlan	32.5%	6.8%	10.5%	2.5%
Bamyan	26.6%	3.4%	6.4%	0.1%

*Net enrolment ratio is the total enrolment of a level who are of that age divided by the total no in the population of that age

Schooling Facilities For girls

2.5 The following table shows the discrepancy in the schooling facilities available between boys and girls:

Table 11. schooling facilities for Boys and Girls

Type of Institutions	No: of Institutions (1977-78)		
	Male	Female	Total
No. of Village Schools*	1359	198	1593
No. of Primary Schools (both 6 grade and 8 grade schools)	1356	226	1778
No. of Middle schools (7th through 9th grades)	120	14	134
No. of Lycees	167	32	199

Input-output ratio

2.6 The input-output ratio is higher among girls than among boys.

Table 12. Input-output ratio in schools

Primary (grades 1-6)		Secondary (grade 7-12)	
Male	Female	Male	Female
2.5	3.0	2.0	3.5

*Village schools are 1 or 2 teacher schools with 3 or 4 grades

Women Teachers

2.7 The following table gives the comparative picture of women's participation in the teaching profession in 1972-73 and 1977-78[11]

Table 13. No. of Women teacher in schools as compared to men teachers

Level of Institution	No. of teachers			
	1972-73		1977-78	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Village School*	2496	9	2259	22
Primary "	10036	2369	17719	3571
Secondary " (Including middle schools and lycees)	5732	847	3863	890

The enrolment of women in teacher training colleges (in 1977-78) was 823 (12%) out of a total enrolment of 6993.

3. EMPLOYMENT

Table 14. Labour Force Composition (Age 8+) (1975)[11]

(in thousands)

Sector	Settled Population Only			Nomads	Total	As % of Total Labour Force
	Male	Female	Total			
Agriculture	1869.0	78.8	1947.8	545.0	2492.8	52.9
Handicrafts	115.6	237.5	353.1	490.5	843.6	17.9
Manufacturing and Mining	357	5.0	40.7	-	40.7	0.9
Construction	43.4	1.3	44.7	-	44.7	0.9
Commerce	201.5	1.3	202.8	54.5	257.3	5.5
Transportat & Communications	56.5	0.1	56.6	-	56.6	1.2
Other Services	638.0	53.6	691.6	-	691.6	14.7
Other	61.8	6.2	68.0	-	68.0	1.4
Unknown	45.3	41.9	87.2	-	87.2	1.9
Unemployed	113.2	14.3	127.5	-	127.5	2.7
Total	3180.0	440.0	3620.0	1090.0	4710.0	100.0

*The Government's aim has been to upgrade village schools to full primary status, often by amalgamating several village schools. The data reflects the gradual phasing out of village schools.

Table 15 Industrial Employment by Sex[11] AI-7

Groups of Industries	No. of Furms	National Employees Male	Female	% of Total Female Work Force	Women as % of Employees in Group of Indusires
1. Food Stuffs and Beverages	36	6874	1994	71.1	22.5
2. Oil Extracting, Including Spinzar	31	2623	51	1.8	1.9
3. Raisin Industry	26	2049	85	3.0	4.0
4. Cotton textiles	3	12888	270	9.7	2.0
5. Wool textiles	3	950	27	.9	2.8
6. Ginned Cotton	3	1713	15	.5	.9
7. Knitting	9	226	80	2.8	26.1
8. Fur	8	303	-	-	-
9. Leather/Shoemaking	2	613	4	.1	0.6
10. Woodworking	4	690	11	.4	1.5
11. Printing	23	1797	30	1.1	1.6
12. Pharmaceuticals	4	245	132	4.7	35.0
13. Briquettes	1	133	4	.1	2.9
14. Plastics	14	508	15	.5	2.4
15. Stoneworks	4	307	-	-	-
16. Technical Industry	15	1500	39	1.3	2.5
17. Chemical Fertilizer	1	2576	46	1.6	1.7
18. Cement	2	1015	3	.1	0.2
Total	189	37,110	2806	100	7.4

Table 16 Government Employees by Sex 1976[11]

Ministry of Agency	Male	Female	Total	Female Employees as % of total
Office of the President	39	-	39	0.0%
Prime Ministry	4572	91	4663	2.0%
Ministry of Finance	4905	161	5066	3.2%
Ministry of Defence (Civil)	1206	7	1033	0.7%
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	246	3	249	1.2%
Ministry of Interior (Civil)	2819	8	2827	0.3%
Ministry of Justice	2639	40	2679	1.5%
Ministry of Planning	129	19	148	12.8%
Ministry of Commerce	700	33	733	4.5%
Ministry of Agriculture	6646	109	6755	1.6%
Ministry of Mines and Industry	941	67	1008	6.6%
Ministry of Information and Culture	1536	122	1658	7.4%
Ministry of Public Health	3763	840	4603	18.2%
Ministry of Communications	1645	82	1727	4.7%
Ministry of Public Works	1972	58	2030	2.9%
Ministry of Frontiers	148	-	148	0.0%
Kabul University	1443	361	1804	20.0%
Kabul Municipality	655	15	670	2.2%
Afghan Red Cross	161	9	170	5.3%
Civil Aviation Authority	1564	127	1691	7.5%
Banks	2616	232	2848	8.1%
Total	40,165	2384	42,549	5.6%

Participation of Children in Work Force

3.1. The ADS Report[8] estimates the percentage of economically active children (ages 8-14) as follows:

Table 17 Participation of Children in Work Force

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
8-9	9.4	1.6	4.2	1.0	10.3	1.7
10-14	31.6	6.6	21.4	3.6	33.5	7.2

4. MORTALITY

Life Expectancy

4.1 Life expectancy between birth and 5 years has been estimated as follows:[12]

Table 18 Life Expectancy by Age and Sex - 1975

	Male	Female
at birth	34.0	36.0
at age 1	46.7	46.9
at age 5	49.5	49.9

Infant Mortality

4.2 Infant mortality in Afghanistan is among the very highest in the world.[14]

Table 19 Infant Mortality Rates (for 1000 live births)

Total Population of the country	184.6
Urban Population	132.7
Rural Population	193.2
Nomadic Population	193.2

4.2 The WHO survey in Greater Kabul of Infant and Early Childhood Mortality in Relation to Fertility Patterns, showed a higher female infant mortality rate.

125.4 per thousand live births for females
106.4 " " " " " "

Childhood Mortality

4.3 The same WHO survey showed that high infant mortality is accompanied by high early childhood (ages 1-4) mortality. It recorded 33.7 per 1000, 31.7 for males and 36.7 for females. There is poorer survival chance for girls up to five years than is estimated for boys, 75.5% of new born girls surviving until 5 years of age, as against 78.7% for boys.

Maternal Mortality

4.4 Maternal mortality in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world. The ADS[8] estimated a rate of 64.2 per 100,000 females. Maternal mortality ranges from 5-8% in rural areas to 3-5% in cities. The high ratio of men to women through the child-bearing age groups may be indicative of these high maternal mortality rates.[4]

4.5 Female mortality is higher than male mortality in urban and rural areas as well as at most ages. (Table 20)

5. FERTILITY

Fertility Rate

Table 19: Age-Specific Fertility Rate 1972-73 (per 1,000 women)

Age	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Age Specific Fertility Rate	136	313	343	291	236	143	80

Table 20. Age Specific Death Rates

Age	Total Population			Urban Population			Rural Population		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	20.4	21.6	21.0	12.9	13.2	13.0	21.8	23.1	22.4
0-4	81.7	65.7	73.7	48.4	42.8	45.6	87.5	69.5	78.5
under 1	208.2	160.8	184.9	154.4	106.8	130.7	216.4	169.2	193.2
1-4	25.2	23.1	24.1	10.3	17.0	13.6	27.7	24.2	25.9
5-9	5.1	6.5	5.8	2.7	3.4	3.1	5.5	7.1	6.3
10-14	5.0	7.4	6.1	0.8	2.1	1.4	5.8	8.4	7.0
15-19	4.6	10.1	7.0	4.8	2.8	3.8	4.5	11.8	7.7
20-24	5.7	14.7	9.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	6.2	17.0	11.2
25-29	3.7	8.9	6.3	4.0	3.5	3.8	3.6	9.8	6.7
30-34	5.1	16.8	10.7	3.5	4.1	3.8	5.3	18.8	11.8
35-39	6.7	10.3	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.8	6.5	10.7	8.4
40-44	9.1	9.0	9.0	5.7	7.0	6.3	9.6	9.3	9.5
45-49	13.0	13.0	13.0	6.2	14.5	9.9	14.2	12.7	13.5
50-54	16.8	18.5	17.8	13.9	18.6	15.8	17.3	18.4	17.8
55-59	22.6	12.4	18.4	15.1	12.6	14.0	23.9	12.4	19.2
60-64	49.3	41.0	45.8	21.9	28.2	24.3	53.8	42.8	49.2
65-69	31.9	41.6	35.6	39.3	49.7	43.2	30.5	40.2	34.3
70-74	38.9	69.0	49.9	57.8	119.8	78.7	36.1	62.6	45.9
75+	91.4	106.5	96.5	813	138.0	101.6	92.9	101.4	95.8

6. NUTRITION

Nutrition of Children under five

6.1 A recent (1978) nutritional survey of 1707 children under five carried out in Shewaki a village area outside of Kabul, classified nutrition status by weight for age, height for age and weight for height measurement.[11] The results were as follows:

Weight for age

17.1%	were normal
45.2%	had mild malnutrition
31.0%	moderate "
6.7%	severe "

When height for age was used:

20.3%	were normal
30.1%	had mild malnutrition
28.1%	" moderate "
21.5%	" severe

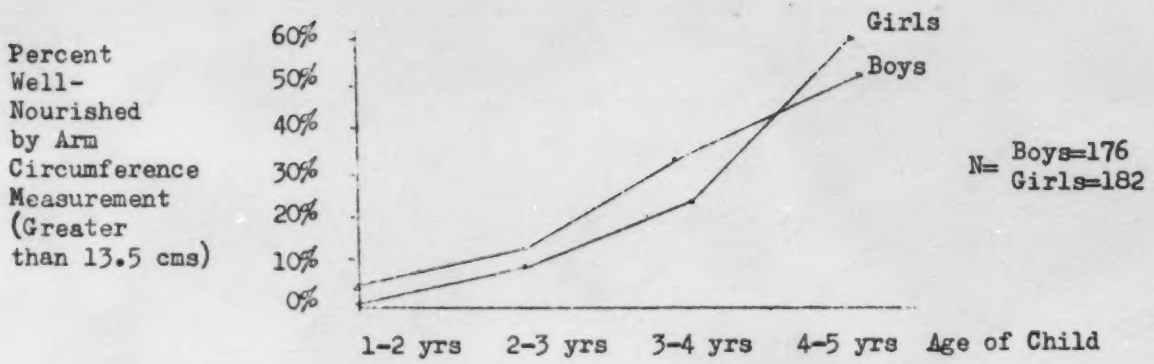
This indicates considerable amount of stunting or nutritional dwarfism

When weight for height index wax used, the corresponding figures were.

64.9%	normal
25.4%	mild malnutrition
7.9%	moderate
1.9%	severe

Nutrition Differential between Boys and Girls

6.1 The three Province Health Survey (1977), showed an extensive under nutrition among children of Ø-5 years. The figure given next page summarises the percentage of well nourished children sex wise in a sample of 352 children. Less than 10% in age 1-3 were well nourished and less than 60% in age 4-5.



Percentage of Children Classifiable as "Well-Nourished"

Table 22. Arm Circumference by Age and Sex
(as percentage of total at each age)

Age Group	Green (AC 13.5 cm)		yellow (12.5 cm AC 13.5 cm)		Red (12.5)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1-2 years	6.1	0.0	33.3	21.2	60.6	78.8
2-3 "	13.7	7.4	58.8	40.7	27.5	51.9
3-4 "	36.2	25.5	51.7	53.2	12.1	21.3
4-5 "	53.4	58.3	33.3	27.1	13.3	14.6

6. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR WOMEN

Equal Rights Legislation

6.1 Article 12 of the Basic Lines of Revolutionary duties of DRA states.[13]

Ensuring of equality of rights of women with men in all social, economic, political, cultural and civil aspects.

7.2 In pursuance of the above, Decree No:7 was issued in October 1978. It is quoted next page.[15]

Article I:

1. No one shall engage or give in marriage (nikah) a girl in exchange of money i cash or commodity.
2. No one shall compel the bridegroom to pay money in cash or commodity in the name of marriage portion (toyana or Walwar) at the time of marriage.

Article II: No one shall compel the bride groom or his guardian to prepare clothing or presents for the girl or her family in the name of Idi, Naurozi Barati or other occasions.

Article III: The girl or her guardian shall not take money in cash or commodity in the name of dowry (Mahar) more than ten darham according to Shariat which does not exceed 300 Afs. on the basis of the bank rate of silver.

Article IV: The engagement and marriage shall take place in full consent of the parties; thus:

1. No one shall force marriage.
2. No one shall prevent the free marriage of a widow or force her into marriage because of relationship or patriarchial ties.
3. No one shall prevent logal marriage of another person on the pretext of engagement, forced engagement expenses or by using force.

Article V: The engagement and marriage for women under 16 years and for men under 18 years are not permissible.

Article VI:

1. Those violating the provision of this decree shall be liable, under conditions to imprisonment from six months to three years.
2. The money in cash or commodity which has been accepted in violation to the provision of this decree shall be confiscated.

8. MAJOR SOCIAL GROUPING IN AFGHANISTAN[2]

Ethnic Group	Language	Religion	Other particulars
1. Pushtun	Pashto	Hanafi Sunni except (Shia)	About 6.5 million in Afghanistan an equal no: in Pakistan
2. Tajik	Dari Tajiki	Hanafi Sunni some Ismai-liya Shia	About 3.5 m in northern Afghanistan
3. Farsiwan	Dari	Imami Shia	About 600,000 mainly agriculturists near the Iranian border and other Southern and western towns.
4. Qizilbash	Dari	" "	Urban, scattered, hold important bureaucratic and professional appointments
5. Hazara	Hazaragi	Some Imami Shia Some Ismai-liya a few Sunni	About 870,000
6. Aimaq	Dari dialects with much Turki Vocabulary	Hanafi Sunni	About 800,000
7. Moghol	Dari with many mongolian words	Hanafi Sunni	Originally concentrated in Ghor now scattered through out.
8. Uzbak	Uzbaki	"	About one million in Northern Afghanistan
9. Turkoman	Turkie	Hanafi Sunni	About 125,500 (Semisedentary and semi nomadic) in northern Afghanistan
10.Kerghiz	Kipchak Turki	"	Several thousand in the Pamir Mountain
11.Pamiri	Pamiri	some Ismailiya some Hanafi Sunni	Several thousand farmers mainly in Badakhshan wakhan

12.	Baluch	Baluchi	Hanafi Sunni	About 100,000 caravaneers, nomads - now semisedentary and seminomadic - some in N.W Afghanistan some travel from Sistan to Herat in summer and back in winter
13.	Brahim	Brahimi	"	About 200,000 in S.W Afghanistan tenant farmers or hired shepherds
14.	Nuristan	Nuristani	"	About 100,000 in eastern Afghanistan
15.	Kohistani	Dardic	Hanafi Sunni	On the Southern ringes of Nuristan
16.	Gujar	Dialect related to Hindustani	"	Cattlemen farmers on eastern ringes of Nuristan
17.	Jat Guji	"	"	Gypsy-like bands of tradesmen, timbers musicians, fortune fillers
18.	Hindu	Hindustani Panjabi Lahnda	Hinduism	About 20,000 mainly in urban centres as merchants, traders and money lenders
19.	Sikh	Hindustani Panjabi Lahnda	Sikhism	About 10,000 scattered in cities and towns as merchants traders and moneylenders Both Sikhs and Hindu speak Dari and/or Pashtu
20.	Jew	Few speak Hebrew. All speak Dari and/or Pashtu	Judaism	Several thousand in Kabul Qandahar, Herat as merchants traders, money-lenders

ANNEX II

UNICEF PROGRAMMES IN AFGHANISTAN DIRECTED AT WOMEN

1978 - 1982

UNICEF PROGRAMME DATA

S No	Programme 1	Objective 2	Target Group 3	Time Span 4	National Group Responsible 5	UNICEF Inputs: US $ 6	UNICEF Inputs: Technical Assistance 7	Inputs from other Resources 8
			I OF DIRECT IMPACT ON WOMEN					
1.	Women's Development Project	To establish training and demonstration centres for women in Integrated Rural Development Projects for organising various activities for the development of women and improvement of children	Rural women and children under 7 About 10000 women and 5500 children	1978 - 1982 (started) in (1977 - 1978)	Rural Development Department	680,150	Technical assistance from UNICEF Project Officer and consultancies where needed eg. in Health education, Child Care Centres construction of prototype buildings	
2.	Women's Literacy Programme	To make illiterate women literate and enable them to continue further learning and to offer basic education facilities to out of school children	About 2.8 m women in ages 15 - 50 About 1.8 m children (8 - 14) not in school	5 years 1979 - 83	GALC & Min. Ed. Primary Department	543,000 (Gen. Res.) + 550,000 Noted for two years	Technical assistance by UNICEF Project Officer	UNDP/UNESCO $ 1.5 m for 4 years UNFPA/UNESCO $ 1.448 m for 4 years (486,000 request approved for 1st year WFP - Food assistance of 800,000 rations W. Bank - Building for national and provincial adult education centres $ 5.7 m proposed CIDA - Press facilities

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Motivation and Child Care Programme	To train Cadres of women workers at the national & provincial levels and to establish center for designing and producing educational toys and materials	500 women per year Several thousand children	2 years 1980 - 82 (as funds are made available)	Khalqi (People's) Organisation of Afghan Women	525,000 (Noted)	Technical assistance from UNICEF Project Officer Consultancy in special areas where needed	
4. Prototype Hostels for Women Workers	To design and construct 4 prototype hostels for women teacher trainees and 6 quarters for ANM's attached to Basic Health Centres.	384 women teacher trainees 12 Aux. Nurse Midwives	2 - 3 years	Ministry of Education Ministry of Public Health	200,000 Gen. Res. 200,000 (Noted) 42,000 (Noted)	Technical advice in designing building and preparing working drawings from UNESCO Principal Architect invited on a consultancy Mission by UNICEF	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	II OF INDIRECT OR PARTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN				$		
1. Primary Education	To train primary grade teachers in teaching the new curriculum introduced from 1979.	44,000 teachers	3 years 1979 - 81	Primary Department Ministry of Education	$ 286,000 (Gen. Res. $ 900,000 Noted)	One volunteer on maintenance and use of audio visual equipment assigned to UNESCO team in general & Teacher Training Department in particular	Technical assistance from UNESCO expertise in Teacher Education.
2. Rural Water Supply	To provide safe drinking water to rural population through piped water systems and reservoirs	800,000 men, women and children	Since before 1975 Present Programme is for 5 years 78 - 82	Ministry of Public Health for Rural Water Supply and Ministry of Public Works for urban water supply	$ 4.5 m Gen. Res. $ 2.8 m Noted $ 1.3 m Noted	One team leader One hydrogeologist One Master Driller One national Pump Technician	WHO Sanitary Engineer WFP Food for Work
3. Basic Health Services	To provide drugs, vaccines, equipment and other supplies, transport, training costs, support to drug production and to Research activities.	Men, women and children attending BH centres, urban health centres and Hospitals; children attending immunisation programmes. MCH Centre. & Sub Centre Laboratory Services Staff Feldschers (Assist. Doctor) Roghtia Mal (Primary Health Workers) Medical Doctors	Since before 1975 Present programme is for 5 years 1978 - 82	Ministry of Public Health	$ 7.5 Gen. Res. $ 0.042 Noted		Technical advice when needed from WHO adviser on Family Health & Laboratory Services

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Annex IV

Maps

Note on Map

According to a recent reorganisation of provinces, there are now the following 26 provinces:

1. Kabul
2. Parwan
3. Ghazni
4. Paktia
5. Paktika
6. Nangarhar
7. Laghman
8. Kunarha
9. Badakhshan
10. Takhar
11. Baghlan
12. Kunduz
13. Samangan
14. Balkh
15. Jauzjan
16. Fariab
17. Badghis
18. Herat
19. Farah
20. Nimroz
21. Helmand
22. Kandahar
23. Zabul
24. Orozgan
25. Ghor
26. Bamiyan

Wardak, Kapisa and Logar have been merged with neighbouring provinces and a new province of Paktika has been formed.

Map I

AFGHANISTAN
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS
U S S R
USSR
CHINA
IRAN
PAKISTAN
INDIA
KUNDUZ
TAKHAR
BADAKHSAN
BALKH
SAMANGAN
BAGHLAN
FARYAB
JOUZJAN
BADGHIS
BAMIAN
KAPISA
PARVAN
KABUL
LAGHMAN
KONARHA
NANGARHAR
LOGAR
WARDAK
GHOR
HERAT
FARAH
URUZGAN
GHAZNI
PAKTYA
ZABUL
KANDAHAR
HELMAND
NIMRUZ
Amu Darya
Indus
International boundary
Province boundary
National capital
Province capital
Road
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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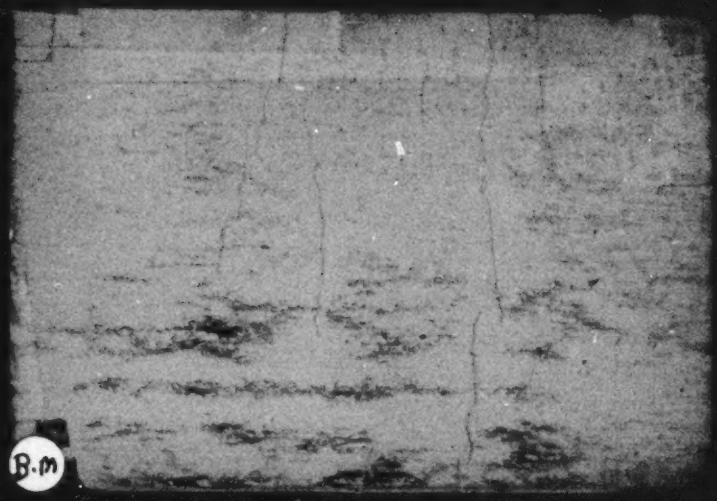
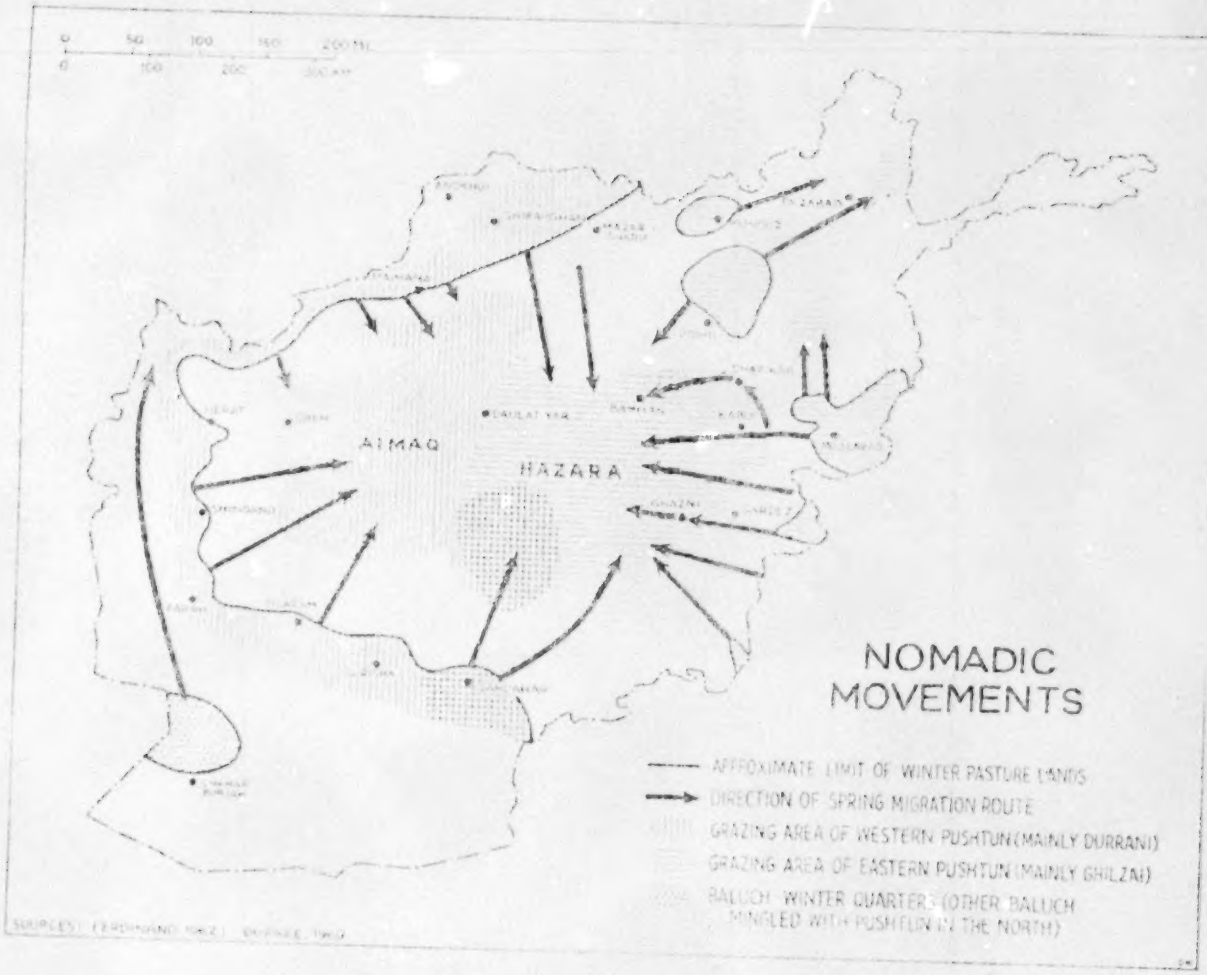
Map 2


B.M

1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
2.5
2.2
2.0
1.8
MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Map 3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0 100 200 300 KM
AIMAQ
HAZARA
NOMADIC MOVEMENTS
APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF WINTER PASTURE LANDS
DIRECTION OF SPRING MIGRATION ROUTE
GRAZING AREA OF WESTERN PUSHTUN (MAINLY DURRANI)
GRAZING AREA OF EASTERN PUSHTUN (MAINLY GHILZAI)
BALUCH WINTER QUARTERS (OTHER BALUCH MINGLED WITH PUSHTUN IN THE NORTH)